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ACCIDENT IN MADHYA PRADESH

9 killed as bus collides with truck in Maihar

NEWS » PAGE 12

CONGRESS ON NICOBAR PROJECT

'Govt. keen on causing ecological disaster'

NEWS » PAGE 10

RELENTLESS MONSOON

170 dead in Nepal floods after heavy rain

WORLD » PAGE 14

DATA POINT

What has Make in India achieved?

10 years later, growth has slowed to 5.5%

OPINION » PAGE 9

MONEY MATTERS

IPL caps earnings for overseas players

SPORT » PAGE 15

Israel pounds Lebanon, 2 more Hezbollah leaders among dead

Hezbollah confirms death of Nabil Kaouk, a veteran member, and Ali Karaki, a senior commander; Sunday's strikes across Lebanon killed over 50 people, left dozens injured; Israel says at least 20 Hezbollah militants were killed in Friday's strike

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Two days after taking out Hezbollah's chief Hassan Nasrallah, Israel continued its airstrikes on Lebanon well into Sunday evening and said it struck nearly 120 Hezbollah targets. Hours after the first wave of attacks, Israeli military announced it had killed Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council, in a strike on Saturday.

At least 24 people were killed in Israeli airstrikes that hit two adjacent buildings east of the southern city of Sidon, the Lebanese Health Ministry said. In Baalbek-Hermel, 21 people were killed and at least 47 injured. Four more died in a raid targeting Joub Jenin in the Bekaa area. The consecutive strikes on Sunday on Ain el-Delb, east of Sidon, were caught on camera by neighbours.

Deadly strike: A building flattened by an overnight Israeli strike in Shiah in Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday. AFP

Hezbollah confirmed Kaouk's death, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades.

Kaouk was a veteran member of Hezbollah going back to the 1980s and served as the group's military commander in southern Lebanon during the 2006 war with Israel. He often appeared in local media, where he would comment on politics and security developments, and he gave eulogies at the funerals of senior militants. The United States had announced sanctions against him in 2020.

Hezbollah had earlier confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah. The Israeli military had said that Karaki was killed in the strike that targeted an underground compound in Beirut where Nasrallah and other Hezbollah figures were meeting.

The military said at least 20 other Hezbollah militants were killed in the strike, including two close associates of Nasrallah, one of whom was in charge of his security detail.

Hezbollah has also been targeted by a sophisticated attack on its pagers and walkie-talkies that was widely blamed on Israel. A wave of Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon has killed at least 1,030 people in less than two weeks.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
ISRAEL ATTACKS YEMEN TOO
» PAGE 14

Israeli airstrikes kill 11 persons across Gaza Strip

CAIRO

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 11 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave said on Sunday. A school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip was among buildings hit, Gaza medics said. » PAGE 14

'Opposition targets CPI(M) fearing loss of minority votes'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The allegations of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) colluding with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are being levelled by the Opposition that is worried by the prospect of losing the minority vote bank to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Not only the Opposition, Mr. Vijayan said both the RSS and Muslim extremist elements that want to sow divisions in the society and encourage communalism in Kerala are attacking the government. These allegations, he said, are also motivated by the discomfort caused by police crackdown on the smuggling of gold and *hawala* money.

At the same time, he said, the BJP's increased vote share is a cause for worry. For that too, Mr. Vijayan held the Congress responsible. "The BJP won Thrissur, not because we lost ground, but because the Congress polled 86,965 fewer votes in 2024 in comparison to the 2019 general election. On the other hand, LDF's vote share had registered a small increase of 16,196 votes," he said.

INTERVIEW ON
» PAGE 10
ANVAR'S CHARGES
» PAGE 6

NEARBY

Rare celestial object sighted over city

BENGALURU

Over the last couple of days, the Bengaluru skies have been witnessing a rare celestial event as a non-periodic comet has been visible in the early hours of the day. » Page 2

Priyank wants Nirmala to quit

BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the wake of a FIR being registered against her here. » Page 3

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 7

Green goddess

Plants for puja: An environment-friendly puja pandal is being readied using a variety of plants and bamboo ahead of the Durga Puja festival, at Lalabagan Nabankur in Kolkata, on Sunday. PTI

MUDA 'scam': Activist Snehamayi Krishna complains to ED against CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Social activist Snehamayi Krishna, the complainant against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, has now lodged a complaint with the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in the case.

He has also approached the High Court of Karnataka seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the case.

This comes amid rising tensions between the Congress, which is ruling the State, and the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is the principal party in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre. The Congress has accused the BJP of misusing Central agencies and the Governor's office to "topple an elected government".

Snehamayi Krishna

Sources close to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah termed the possible entry of Central agencies into the probe as a sign of "troubles mounting".

It may be recalled that the Lokayukta police have already registered an FIR against Mr. Siddaramaiah, his wife, Parvathi B.M., and two others, based on a complaint by Mr. Krishna.

However, expressing apprehensions that an investigation by the Lokayukta police functioning under the purview of the State government and the Chief Minister could have an influence over the machinery, Mr. Krishna is now seeking parallel probes by CBI and ED.

While the CBI needs to be assigned the case either by the High Court or the State government, no such permission is required for the ED to launch a probe into the case. The ED can launch a probe into any case where a scheduled offence of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is made out in a prior FIR.

Mr. Krishna, in his complaint mailed to Deputy Director, ED, Bengaluru, on September 27, contended that Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife had "illegally" made a gain to the tune of ₹55.80 crore through the irregularities in the allotment of sites by MUDA, which he said related to "scheduled offences" under PMLA, 2002.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

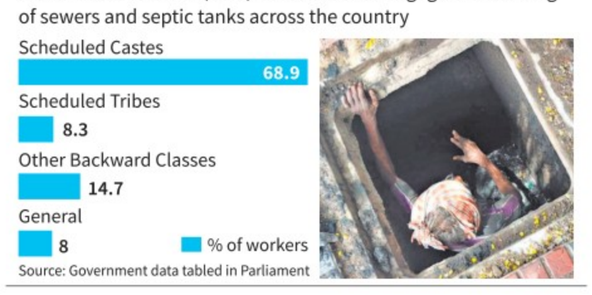
92% of workers cleaning urban sewers, septic tanks belong to SC, ST, OBC groups, finds survey

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind attempt to enumerate people engaged in the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India's cities and towns, government data gathered from over 3,000 urban local bodies in 29 States and Union Territories shows that 91.9% of the 38,000 workers profiled so far belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other backward class (OBC) communities.

Of the profiled workers, 68.9% were SC, 14.7% were OBC, 8.3% were ST, and 8% were from the general category.

Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people across the country have died from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, according to government data tabled in Parliament.



Hazardous cleaning

The profiling of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as part of its NAMASTE programme, a scheme to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work. In 2023-24, this scheme was brought in to replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

The Union government's rationale is that manual scavenging as a practice has ended across the country and what needs to be fixed now is the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. It draws this distinction based on a technical difference in how manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning are defined in the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act.

The NAMASTE programme targets "workers directly associated with sewer and septic tank cleaning including drivers of desludging vehicles, helpers, machine operators and cleaners", the Ministry says.

Its goal is to profile such workers in a nationwide enumeration exercise, give them safety training and equipment, and offer capital subsidies that could turn sewer and septic tank workers into "sanipreneurs", or sanitation entrepreneurs.

Since the scheme began a year ago, 3,326 urban local bodies (ULBs) have begun the process and profiled around 38,000 SSWs. So far, 283 ULBs have reported zero SSWs, and 2,364 ULBs have reported less than 10 SSWs each.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Two abducted Manipur youth seek Chief Minister's help

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two of three Meitei youth abducted by Kuki extremists on September 27 have appealed to Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh to save their lives.

Their appeal came through a video that surfaced on social media platforms early on Sunday, following which the Chief Minister held a meeting with the MLAs from various parties.

In the video, one of the abducted youth urged Mr. Singh to save them by fulfilling the demands of their abductors. The demands were not immediately known.

Mr. Singh said the State was taking steps to secure the release of the two youth. "Held a meeting with all the MLAs from both the ruling and Opposition parties at my Secretariat, today. Addressed the current situation in the State, particularly focusing on the rescue of the abduction of two innocent youths by Kuki militants," he posted on X.

"We condemn such heinous acts and our government is working to secure the safe release of the victims," he added.

Ningombam Johnson Singh, Oinam Thoithoi Singh and Thokchom Thoithoiba Singh were reported missing on Friday.

The three missing youth had left their homes in Imphal Valley's Thoubal district on a two-wheeler to take part in an Army recruitment rally at New Keithelmanbi in the Imphal West district.

Wrong destination

Mr. Johnson Singh, who escaped from the abductors, later said they relied on Google Maps but set their destination as Keithelmanbi instead of New Keithelmanbi. Keithelmanbi is a Kuki village while New Keithelmanbi is a Meitei village.

The trio was caught by some Kuki extremists on their way to Keithelmanbi.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

CMYK
M BG-BGE

Jadeja — a stellar performer who is happy to fly under the radar

He is at his most comfortable either facing up to the best of attacks with the team having its back to the wall, sending down over after probing over of relentless left-arm spin, or gliding across the turf with the grace of a ballerina and the pace of a cheetah, lifting fielding to a fine art

R. RAGU

R. Kaushik

Kamindu Mendis is currently flavour of the season, and rightly so, after drawing abreast of the great Sir Don Bradman in becoming the second-fastest to 1,000 Test runs in terms of innings played (13).

Last week, R. Ashwin walked away with all the plaudits after his stirring all-round display in potentially his final Test at his home ground, the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, scoring a hundred and taking five wickets in an innings in the same game for the fourth time.

While Mendis and Ashwin have hogged the limelight, another stellar performer has flown under the radar, as he invariably does despite his wonderfully consistent exploits with bat and ball across formats for a long time now.

Ravindra Jadeja won't mind it one bit, you suspect. He isn't a great one for outlandish shows of emotion or for espousing his views freely and without inhibition. He is at his most comfortable either facing up to the best of attacks with the team having its back to the wall, sending down over after probing over of relentless left-arm spin, or gliding across the turf with the grace of a ballerina and the pace of a cheetah, lifting fielding to a fine art.

In the same Chennai Test where Ashwin was named the Player of the Match for the 10th time – among Indians, only Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid have won more such awards – Jadeja was typically efficient, striding inconspicuously in Ashwin's outsized shadow during India's first-innings batting stint, and playing second fiddle to Jasprit Bumrah and Ashwin respectively in India's two bowling innings.

He finished the game with 86 runs, helping Ashwin rally India from 144 for six on day one to a match-deciding 376 all out, and with five wickets across two innings. Yet, apart from the smiles he elicited for his inner Rajput-fuelled signature celebration upon reaching his half-century, he was hardly in the forefront, content to walk at his own pace and happy in his own skin.

Extraordinary accomplishment

It almost went unnoticed that Jadeja became the first cricketer in Test history to score more than 2,000 runs and take 200 wickets in winning causes, an extraordinary accomplishment that alone underpins his value as an all-round asset. At a time when India is bemoaning the lack of a quality seam-bowling all-rounder in the longest format, Jadeja forms arguably the more potent half of a spinning all-rounder combine alongside Ashwin, whose wicket-taking skills remain undiminished and whose batting now seems to have found a second wind.

K.R. DEEPAK

Sometimes, it's hard to believe that Jadeja is just nine weeks short of his 36th birthday, or that he has completed 15 years in international cricket. Time seems to have stood still for the left-handed handyman born in Navagam-Khed in Saurashtra, who has been stumped neither by advancing years nor the ravages of injury that has reared its ugly head now and again.

Jadeja is as full of energy as he was when he debuted for the country in February 2009 as a 20-year-old, as electric on the park, as feared for his ability to turn the course of a match with a slice of brilliance in the field, and a far improved version of the man who once didn't believe in himself as a batter in international cricket, but has been a splendid performer all over the world once he started viewing himself in a different light.

If Jadeja's value has been less eulogised, we can put it down to his disarming lack of self-aggrandisement. There is a simplicity to his bowling that makes the craft appear remarkably easy. Just as there is an effectiveness to his batting that can hardly be mistaken for graceful elegance.

Jadeja might not elicit the oohs and the aahs that the more stylish batters or the more vicious turners of the ball do, but it's in his understanding and maximising of his strengths and his acute awareness of his very few weaknesses that he stands head and shoulders above everyone else.

There might appear nothing fancy about Jadeja's extremely incisive left-arm spin. But one can't average 24 with the ball while picking up 13 five-wickets hauls in Test cricket by being commonplace; Jadeja is anything but, as his numerous victims will affirm. An easy, uncomplicated, repeatable action is complemented by subtle changes in angle and pace; he may not possess, or talk about, the dip and loop and drift and revs like the more eloquent Ashwin does, but Jadeja's command over his bowling speaks for itself.

On good tracks of the variety that abound outside the sub-continent – good for the faster bowlers, or good for the batters, that is – Jadeja is an exceptional defensive bowler who keeps pegging away, giving away little in terms of width or errors in length.

Blessed with the ability to bowl long spells with enviable consistency, he gives the batters little breathing room; that he can get through his overs quickly might not always thrill his pace-bowling partner at the other end, but he is a captain's delight because he offers greater leeway when it comes to meeting over-rate requirements.

Give him a surface with a hint of encouragement, and Jadeja becomes a totally different beast. He brings all his variations into play, and they are many even if they may not appear visibly so, and uses his innate smarts and awareness to spin a wicked web of deceit that's often overlooked by the presence at the other end of Ashwin.

Mind-boggling

To bowl alongside Ashwin and still pick up 299 Test wickets (and counting) at more than four wickets per game is mind-boggling. That he has stolen a march over Ashwin in the last half-decade when India has played overseas with just one specialist spinner speaks to how highly successive leadership groups rate him, and exactly what he brings to the table as he backs up Jasprit Bumrah and Co. and ensures that the pressure built by the quicker bowlers isn't released by a loose spell or by overreach.

So much has Jadeja's batting come on since the beginning of 2018 that first Virat Kohli and now Rohit Sharma have been emboldened to use him in the top half of the batting order. His left-handedness was of great value to shake things up especially when Yashasvi Jaiswal had yet to make his debut and Rishabh Pant was recuperating from his car crash.

Since January 2018, Jadeja has made close to 2,000 Test runs in 39 games at an average of 43.24, which has propelled his overall average to 36.72 from a modest 29.40 in his first 35 Tests. All four of his centuries, including a massive unbeaten 175 against Sri Lanka in Mohali while batting at No. 7, and 13 of his 21 fifties have come in the last seven years, reiterating that once he started – belatedly, many will attest – believing that he belonged as a batter in Test cricket, he was a completely transformed willow-wielder.

Like Rohit and Kohli, Jadeja too bid adieu to international T20 cricket after India's World Cup triumph in Bridgetown in June. For all his versatility, he didn't exactly crack the T20I code; his numbers from 74 games for the nation in that format are middling to par, just about, but he was still seen as adding tremendous value mainly because his fielding alone was worth taking a punt on.

Outstanding

In the other two formats, he has been outstanding; in the 50-over game, for instance, he averages 32.42 with the bat and 36.07 with the ball, the seemingly high latter number more than made up for by an economy of 4.88 and a strike rate of a wicket every 44.3 deliveries, which has helped him snare 220 victims in 197 games. In all formats combined, he has more than 570 wickets and upwards of 6,300 runs. Ravindra Jadeja is a star, all right, never mind if he doesn't tom-tom it.

India must count itself very fortunate that in the last quarter of a century or so, it has twice had two astonishingly skilled spinners operating in tandem but seldom competing with each other. Even though he himself finished with more than 400 Test wickets, Harbhajan Singh was often Anil Kumble's understudy when they played together, though it's another matter that for a while in the early 2000s, Harbhajan supplanted Kumble as India's lead tweaker overseas.

Ashwin clearly has the more jaw-dropping numbers compared to Jadeja, but the latter is anything but an also-ran. Several of Ashwin's wickets have stemmed from the unyielding and sustained pressure imposed by Jadeja at the other end, and the off-spinner from Chennai will be the first to acknowledge.

Over the next three months, Jadeja will continue to be a pivotal figure in India's bid to make it to the final of the World Test Championship for the third time in a row. It's unlikely that in Australia later in the year, India will play both Ashwin and Jadeja in all five Tests; it's also more than likely that if they go in with just one of them, the scales will be tilted in Jadeja's favour, as they have been for a while now.

As a primarily restrictive bowler and as an attritional, obdurate left-handed batter, Jadeja will be expected to sail in the wake of the glory boys. For some reason, that prospect seems to appeal to the Jamnagar gazelle. Indian cricket is richer for that.

THE GIST

- Jadeja isn't a great one for outlandish shows of emotion or for espousing his views freely and without inhibition
- Several of Ashwin's wickets have stemmed from the unyielding and sustained pressure imposed by Jadeja at the other end
- Over the next three months, Jadeja will continue to be a pivotal figure in India's bid to make it to the final of the World Test Championship for the third time in a row
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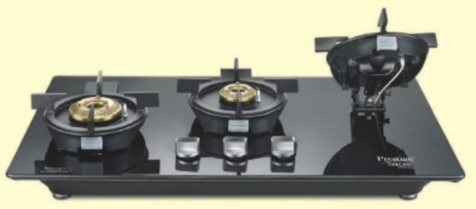

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**Kunadanahalli:** New Prakash Ha, Ph: 7090444111; **Kengeri**: Falcon Hm, Ph: 7829999066; **Koramangala:** Sowbhagya Traders, Ph: 7337733887; **Kmr Swylayout**: Patel Ha, Ph: 8951979665; **Laggere:** Top Mart, Ph: 9110246047; **Lnpura:** Arihanth Ent, Ph: 7899633338; **Malleshwaram:** Deviprasad Ha, Ph: 23564536; Bright Novelty, Ph: 23343505; **Mathikere:** M.Bhawarlals Inc, Ph: 41724740; Maharaja Agency, Ph: 41278050; **Kadugodi:** Little Wonder, Ph: 9961224224; **Madiwala:** Surya Ha, Ph: 9449635332; **Malleshpalya:** Bajrang Ha, Ph: 9449526463; New Bheru Ha, Ph: 9448680738; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 9035175860; Sri Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9590575427; Maa Ambe Ha, Ph: 8884198322; **Magadiroad:** Royal Mart, Ph: 23584498; **Annapurneshwari Nagar:** Deepak Ha, Ph: 9148912736; **M S Palya:** Royal Mart, Ph: 8147014079; **B Narayanpura:** Yellow Mart, Ph: 7676726487; **Rajajinagar:** Mahalakshmi Metal House, Ph: 23355994; Rathna Sales, Ph: 23375566; Dhanalakshmi Kitchen World, Ph: 41285801; Jayalakshmi Kw, Ph: 9844755146; R S Mart, Ph: 6363602929; Pooja Stl Cent, Ph: 23327014; **RR Nagar:** Milan Ha, Ph: 28605619; Pavan Kg, Ph: 9739207043; **Tavarakere:** Mytri Mart Sm, Ph: 7996598838; **T C Palya:** Rhk Super Mkt, Ph: 9731668995; Big Day Sm, Ph: 8867604818; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544; **Tipsandra:** Pawar Ha, Ph: 9980517021; Milan Ha, Ph: 9986196375; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 7406901545; **Ulsoor:** Aishwaryapranam Ha Ph: 9902788429; Pranam Steel Center, Ph: 9448053781; **Udaynagar:** Mother India, Ph: 9036189765; **Venkatapura:** Pooja Kg, Ph: 9900426176; **Vijayanagar:** Vijaylaxmi Kw, Ph: 9845022284; Mahendras, Ph: 23141126; Maruthi Ha, Ph: 8904689155; **Vidyarnapra:** Praksh Kw, Ph: 805062087; Mahalakshmi Steel House, Ph: 9663375159; All Seasons Hm, Ph: 9946728736; **Whitefield:** Rolla Hm, Ph: 9148003448; Loyalcity, Ph: 7892565797; Royal Mart, Ph: 7079734574; **Yelahanka:** Royalmart, Ph: 41705760; Mutha Electricals, Ph: 22971920; Sai Kitchen World, Ph: 9632811797; **Btm Layout**: Patel Agencies, Ph: 9482853401; 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Pai INTERNATIONAL

INBRIEF

Metro services between Whitefield and ITPL hit

A technical glitch at the Whitefield (Kadugodi) metro station caused a brief suspension of train services between Whitefield and ITPL on Sunday morning. According to the BMRCL, services were halted from 8.25 a.m. to 8.55 a.m., affecting commuters during peak travel hours.

During the disruption, BMRCL arranged for short-loop train services on the Purple Line, ensuring connectivity between Challaghatta and ITPL stations. Normal operations resumed on the entire Purple Line by 8.55 a.m.

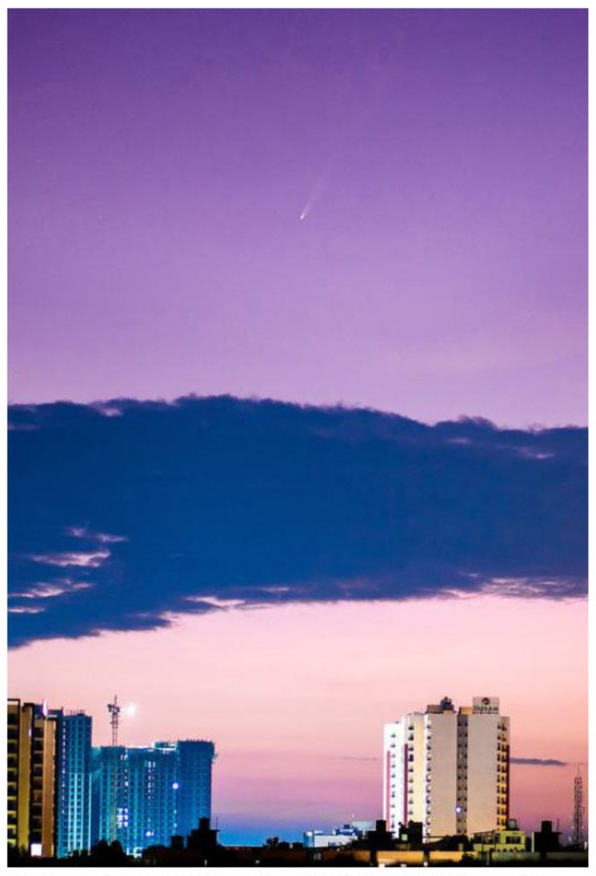
SWR responds to concerns on safety of skywalk

A recent social media post raised alarm over the safety of the skywalk at Whitefield Railway Station. It said the skywalk was "shaking violently" owing to poor maintenance, creating a hazardous situation for pedestrians. An X user called for urgent intervention to inspect and repair the structure. The post quickly gained traction, drawing attention to the condition of the foot overbridge.

South Western Railway (SWR) issued a statement saying the overbridge had undergone regular inspections by railway engineers, and a recent assessment by an independent third-party expert. "The foot overbridge was also inspected by a Structural Engineering Professor from BU along with Railways officials on Saturday," the statement read, emphasising that it was found to be "structurally sound and safe."

Rare celestial object sighted over city

The comet, named Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–ATLAS), was discovered by the Purple Mountain Observatory in China on January 9, 2023



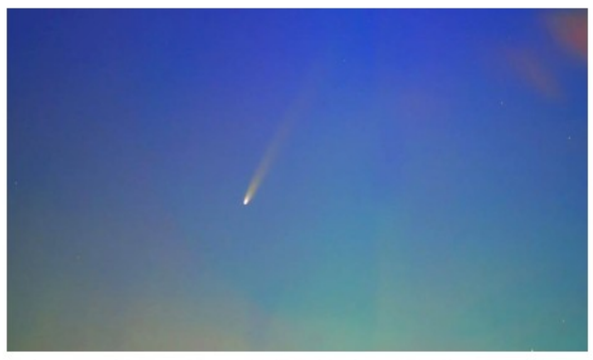
An image of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–ATLAS) captured in North Bengaluru early on Saturday. DEEPAK CHOUDHARY

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the last couple of days, the Bengaluru skies have been witnessing a rare celestial event as a non-periodic comet has been visible in the early hours of the day.

The comet which has been spotted over the city skies is Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS). Discovered by the Purple Mountain Observatory in China on January 9, 2023, it was independently observed by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) in South Africa a month later which led to its naming.

Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) is a non-periodic comet which according to R.C. Kapoor, a Bengaluru-based astrophysicist, means "they are virtually outsiders to our solar system". Prof. Kapoor said that the comet passed its perihelion mid-night of September 27/28 last from a distance of 56 million km from the sun. He added that it will remain a morning object in the first few days of October.



A close-up of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–ATLAS) captured in Bengaluru on Saturday. DEEPAK CHOUDHARY

Images of the comet over the Bengaluru skies have also been captured by amateur photographers and astronomy enthusiasts.

Deepak Choudhary, an avid astronomy enthusiast, had captured images of the comet on Saturday between 5 a.m. to 5.30 a.m. "On the morning of September 28, I woke up at around 4.30 a.m. to check the clarity of the skies and, to my delight, found them perfectly clear. After setting up my DSLR camera and a 20-year-old lens mounted on a tripod, I began capturing images of the sky," Mr. Choudhary said. He added that on his first attempt, he was overjoyed to see Comet C/2023 A3 appear on his screen. "It is a remarkable achievement, as it may be the first time someone from India captured the comet so closely after its reappearance in the northern hemisphere," he added.

While the comet will remain a morning object in the first few days of October, from October 12, it will be possible to view in the western sky soon after sunset. "From October 12, it will be possible to view in the west soon after sunset. It will then be passing by the Earth at its closest, when it is expected to be visible by the unaided eye," Prof. Kapoor said.

Prof. Kapoor added that as the eccentricity of this comet's orbit is slightly above one, it is an Oort Cloud object.

"Such objects are on extremely long orbits. The Oort Cloud is a reservoir centered on the Sun, extending from ~10,000 to ~100,000 au (astronomical units) with comet orbits randomly oriented; 1 au= 149,597,870.700 km," Prof. Kapoor added.

Deer hunters caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest Department officials unearthed a deer hunting racket in Kanakapura on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, a team from the Sathanur Range raided a farm house belonging to Pradeep in Uyyamballi village. The accused who were at the farm house fled from the backdoor during the raid.

Forest officials recovered 10 kg of deer meat along with three deer heads and 12 limbs. The accused had been packing the meat into plastic bags and preparing to transport it. The officials suspect that they were planning to sell it, mostly to hotels and other commercial establishments in and around Kanakapura.

The officials also recovered gun power, country-made guns, head torch, choppers and knives.

Forest officials have booked Pradeep and his associates under various sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Forest Act, 1980, Arms Act, 1959 and have formed special teams to track them down. The officials have sealed down the farm house for further investigation.

Implementation of e-khata for property registration may see a month's delay

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The introduction of faceless, contactless e-khata system is likely to be delayed by a month in the city as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is still awaiting data from Kaveri 2.0 to integrate it with the digitised property records, a key step to ensure a seamless citizen-friendly online experience.

The civic body is also yet to complete validating the 21 lakh property records it has digitised. This means, the BBMP will not be able to implement the mandatory e-khata system from Monday, as was announced by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Since the Minister announced that e-khata will be mandatory for registration of properties from September 30, many citizens have been questioning how this would be possible when the feature is not introduced in the city limits.

Anup Nair, a citizen, said, "There is no procedure for e-aasti and e-swathu in Bengaluru to do this online."

An aerial view of buildings in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is also yet to complete validating the 21 lakh property records it has digitised

However, a source in the Revenue Ministry said the announcement by the Minister marks the start of the implementation process across the State in a phased manner and not a total implementation at one time. "The BBMP may take at least a month to streamline the system and after that it will be implemented. In Bengaluru Urban also implementation will happen in a phased manner," they said. Meanwhile, the BBMP was also asked to provide e-khata on priority to those in need. The official further said that the system has already been implemented in some districts such as Chitradurga, Raichur, Bagalkot, and Chamarajanagar through e-swathu under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department to register properties. This was done on a pilot basis.

Multi-level quality check

According to a senior BBMP official, the BBMP has digitised 21 lakh properties from 5,500 record books and now it is conducting a multi-level quality check of these property records involving case workers, deputy commissioners and joint commissioners.

The exercise aims to reduce red tape and corruption over issuing khata, but at the same time also increasing property tax revenue.

The agency tasked with digitising the records has finished the work. However, records of only 700 ledgers have been checked. Besides this the civic body is awaiting the data from Kaveri 2.0, the data pertaining to the sale deeds.

Once the system is launched, property owners will need to enter their names, complete an online KYC, and upload sale deeds of their properties (which can be fetched online from the Kaveri 2 database) to download an e-khata. Before the system goes live, the public will have a 7- to 15-day window to file objections.

Bellandur residents have an issue with road-widening project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents of Bellandur are voicing their concerns over the proposed road-widening project from Lower Agaram to Sarjapur in Bengaluru, announced by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, on Saturday.

The Defence Ministry has agreed to hand over 12.34 acres to BBMP to facilitate the widening, as part of a broader strategy to reduce travel time from M.G. Road to Bellandur

The Defence Ministry has agreed to hand over 12.34 acres to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to facilitate the widening, which is part of a broader strategy to reduce travel time from M.G. Road to Bellandur.

Despite the intentions behind the project, many locals believe it could lead to unintended consequences. Residents argue that the plan, especially the proposed Ejipura-Agara connectivity, will only cause more congestion in the area, particularly near key points in the IT Corridor.

'More harm to IT corridor'

Vishnu, a member of the Bellandur Development Forum, expressed his frustration saying, "The proposed Ejipura-Agara connectivity will cause more harm to the IT corridor. We will all get stuck at Iblur and on these flyovers eventually if this plan goes through."

Aditi Roy, another member of Bellandur Development Forum, questioned the project's scope and effectiveness. "Why not extend the widening all the way to Sarjapur if the goal is to decongest the IT Corridor," she asked. "If the metro is the reason, expedite the Iblur junction upgrade and ensure the Sarjapur Road metro project is swiftly approved. Key junctions such as Haralur, Kaikondrahalli, Doddakanneli, and Carmelaram, along with the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Ecospace, Kadubeesanahalli, and Marathahalli, should be addressed in a comprehensive plan," she said.

'Not a long-term urban planning strategy'

Both residents emphasised that while they support enhanced connectivity, the current proposals are fragmented and serve as "pet projects" instead of part of a coordinated, long-term urban planning strategy.

Mr. Vishnu urged the government to operationalise the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), introduce more AC/mini buses to the area, and expedite land acquisitions for other pending projects, such as the Sarjapur road widening.

Gang robs jeweller

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man who was returning from a business trip was abducted and robbed by a gang of eight in three cars on the outskirts of Tumakuru on Sunday morning.

The victim, Anil Mahadev, a jeweller from Salem, had reportedly gone to buy silver bars from a client and was returning home in a car. Anil's son Balaji and his friends Ganesh and Vinod were with him.

When they reached Nelahal Cross on NH 48, the accused intercepted them in three cars and attacked. While Balaji and his friends escaped, the accused reportedly abducted Anil and sped away in his car. They later reportedly reached an isolated place near Ajjenahalli, threatened and assaulted Anil before robbing cash of ₹1 crore and 350 kg of silver bars from him. They left the car and Anil and sped away with the valuables. Meanwhile, Balaji alerted the police who tracked Anil down a few km away and rescued him.

Senior police officials including Superintendent of Police Ashok K.V. visited the spot and supervised the investigation. The police also recorded the statement of the victims and found that there were discrepancies in their accounts. "We suspect that there is something fishy as the source of the money is not clear and there are discrepancies in the accounts given by various people involved," a senior official said.

KSOU to offer free education to transgender students to reduce dropout rate

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With an aim to promote higher education in the transgender community, the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, has decided to offer all courses free with "zero fee" for transgender students.

KSOU is now writing to all NGOs and other organisations working with the transgender community to create awareness about this facility. They want to take up a campaign to get more transgender students enrolled in both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The transgender community is one of the most marginalised and stigmatised in society. Most members of the community drop out of high school or at the pre-university level. "Due to stigma, lack of resources and other reasons, the number of transgender students going to colleges is very less. We have heard a lot of incidents where such students have been harassed by their classmates in schools and colleges. Hence, there is a need to identify and encourage students from transgender communities to pursue higher education. Last year, only two transgender students were enrolled in our university. Free education will be given to these students who enrol in graduation and post graduation courses," said Sharanappa V. Halase, Vice Chancellor, KSOU.

Akkai Padmashali

Prof. Sharanappa further said that KSOU was uniquely suited for transgender students, as given their experience, they avoid going to regular colleges and end up dropping out of education altogether. "At KSOU, they need not come for regular classes and our degrees make them eligible for all jobs in the State," he said.

However, this is not the first such initiative. To mainstream the community, the State government has provided reservation to transgenders in both education and employment. However, only a handful of them have used it till date. For instance, many years after being given 1% reservation, not one transgender student has utilised it and enrolled in Bangalore University.

Welcoming KSOU's move and terming it "laudable", transgender activist Akkai Padmashali stressed upon the need for both an awareness and a motivational campaign to ensure more transgender students enrol in higher education. She said her organisation Ondede would motivate members of the community to enrol for higher education and use the facility.

To more groups

KSOU has also been providing free education to visually impaired students (except B.Ed and MBA courses) and to children who have lost both their parents to COVID-19.

It also recently decided to give a 10% discount in tuition fees for all girl students with BPL cards, ex-servicemen, auto and cab drivers, and employees of road transport corporations among other groups.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 30	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:10
RISE	04:09 SET 16:48
TUESDAY, OCT. 01	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:09
RISE	04:55 SET 17:22
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 02	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:09
RISE	05:40 SET 17:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client namely, **Smt. Ambika Nazarat** W/o Alvin Nazarat, Aged about 50 years, Residing at, No. 1754, Rajiv Nagar 1st stage, Bangalore – 570 019., is the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the land bearing residential Apartment bearing No. 104 measuring 614 Square feets in the 1st floor of VBHC VAIBHAVA APARTMENT, situated at, **Byadagadenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.** The above said property purchased by my client under registered sale deed dated. 10.11.2014 vide registered document No. 6577/2014-15 registered Before Sub Registrar Chamarajapete. My client before purchasing the above said property she had entered into a assignment deed dated. 12.06.2014 with apartment owners. After completion of construction she had purchased the same as stated supra. Recently 1 months back my client has lost the original registered sale deed dated. 10.11.2014 vide registered document No. 6577/2014-15 and assignment deed dated. 12.06.2014 when my client shifting the house. After that, inspite of her best efforts and though search, she could not trace out the same. And in this regard on 27.09.2024 my client lodged police complaint at Anekal Police station, Anekal, if anybody finds the above said original documents it is requested to hand over the same to my client or to my below mentioned address.

MALLIKARJUNA.B.K, Advocate,
Office at, No. 1, 1st floor,
Mahadeshwara complex, Attibele road,
Anekal Town, Bangalore District- 562 106.
MOB: 9482018477

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client namely, **Sri. R. Kartik,** S/o N. Ramamurthy, Aged about 50 years, Residing at, F-403, Palash Society, Takad, Pune - 411057, is the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the land bearing residential Apartment bearing No. 108 measuring 351 Square feets in the first floor of VBHC VAIBHAVA APARTMENT, situated at, **Byadagadenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.** The above said property purchased by my client under registered sale deed dated. 24.07.2015 vide registered document No. 3711/2015-16 registered Before Sub Registrar Chamarajapete. Recently 3 months back my client has lost the original registered sale deed dated. 24.07.2015 vide registered document No.3711/2015-16 when my client shifting the house. Near Chowda Reddy Circle Bus stop, Anekal Town, Bangalore Urban District. After that, inspite of his best efforts and though search, he could not trace out the same. And in this regard on 27.09.2024 my client lodged police complaint at Anekal Police station, Anekal, if anybody finds the above said original document it is requested to hand over the same to my client or to my below mentioned address

MALLIKARJUNA.B.K, Advocate,
Office at, No. 1, 1st floor,
Mahadeshwara complex, Attibele road,
Anekal Town, Bangalore District- 562 106.
MOB: 9482018477

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. SNT-Proj-JP-2024-25-04 Dated 27.09.2024. Dy. CSTE/ Project/JP acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against **Tender No SNT-Proj-JP-2024-25-04** closing date **25.10.2024 15:00.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. **Name of work with it location:** Provision of Indigenous Train Collision Avoidance System (KAVACH) and other associated work over North Western Railway (1586 Kms). **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 1,85,42,49,944.33. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 94,21,300/- (Online Payment Only). Date & Time For Submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in : **25.10.2024** Up to **15.00 hrs. Website Particulars & Notice board location: www.ireps.gov.in** and **Dy. CSTE/Proj./JP Office** **1130-AJ/24**

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Not just nothing, dark matter quests close in on dire 'neutrino fog'

Scientists have placed the tightest restrictions yet on the identity of the particles that make up dark matter. It was a null result: it didn't say what the particle's identity was but suggested which identities the particle couldn't have. It prompted a sense of resignation. Similar experiments have been turning up empty-handed for decades

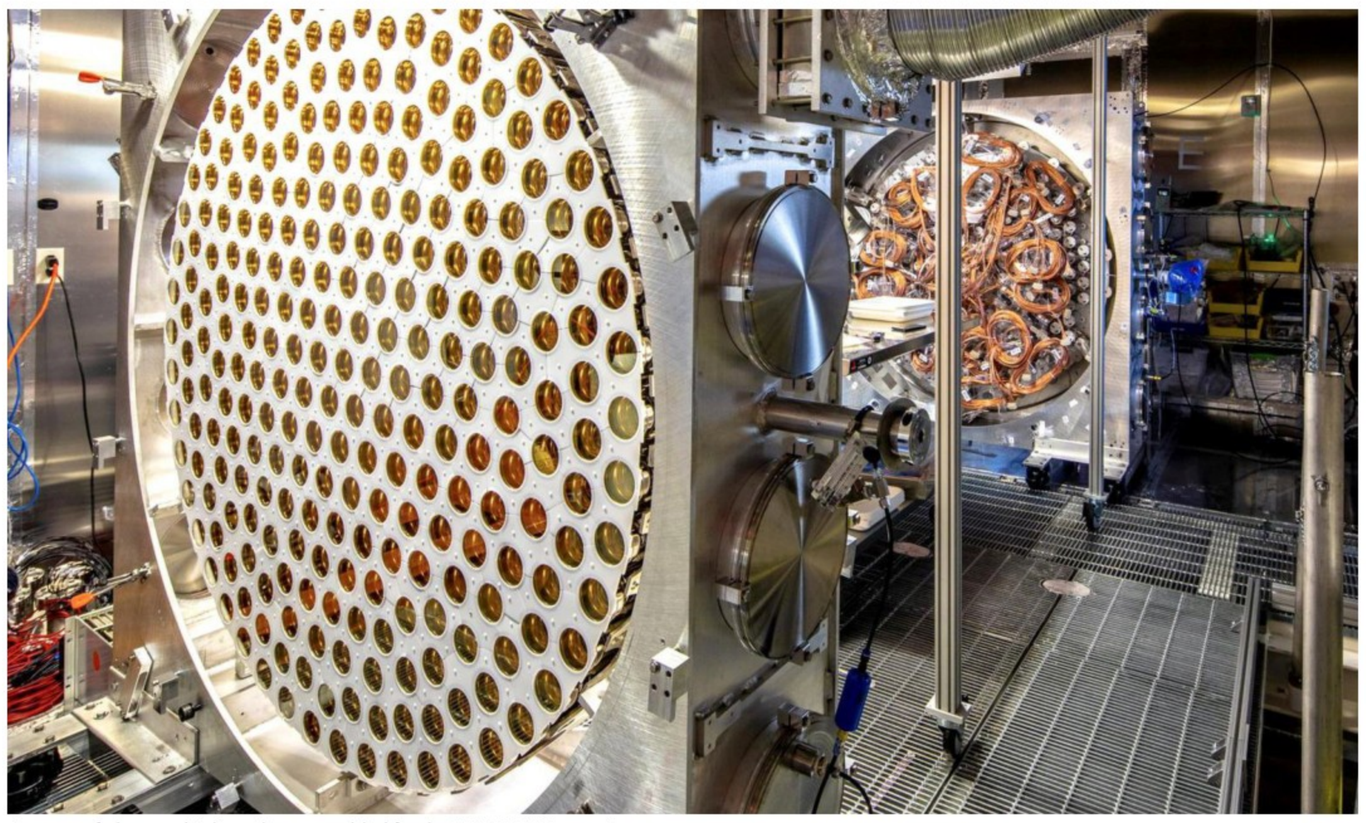
Nirmal Raj

On August 28, two members of an experiment at conferences in Chicago and São Paulo had an announcement to make.

They were representing about 200 of their colleagues involved in the design, building, and operation of the LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) experiment located 1.5km below the earth's surface at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota, U.S. Their news: their band of scientists had placed the tightest restrictions yet on the identity of the particles that made up dark matter.

It was a null result: it didn't say what the particle's identity was but suggested which identities the particle couldn't have. And it didn't prompt disappointment from the physics community. Instead, it prompted resignation.

Experiments similar to LZ – such as XENON-nT in Italy, PandaX-4T in China, and dozens of others around the world – have been turning up empty-handed for decades now despite heroic efforts.



An array of photomultiplier tubes assembled for the LUX-ZEPLIN experiment. LZ DARK MATTER EXPERIMENT, LZ.LBL.GOV

Dark matter and its handshake

Dark matter is the invisible stuff making up most of the mass in the universe, responsible for giving the cosmos its current looks. Stars, gas, and planets contribute only 15% to the universe's mass.

The simplest contender for the make-up of dark matter is a previously unknown type of particle that doesn't interact with photons and lives – i.e. without disintegrating, unlike most particles – for at least the age of the universe, about 14 billion years.

This raises a question: does dark matter ever touch us? More precisely, can atomic nuclei and electrons scatter dark matter particles when they come close?

Several theories of dark matter indeed predict this handshake between the visible and invisible. The issue is how we can detect it.

A sail to catch the wind

In 1985, physicists Mark Goodman and Ed Witten proposed a new strategy that has since mushroomed into an entire sub-field of experimental physics. (This is the same Witten of string theory fame. Thus the most theoretical of physicists has spawned an industry of experiments, proving the artificiality of divisions within physics. It is ironic that if dark matter is discovered in an underground laboratory, Witten will be awarded the Nobel Prize for something he has spent the least time on.)

We are all familiar with the pancake shape of the Milky Way galaxy. This disk of stars is embedded in a ball of dark matter about 100,000 lightyears across. In the Solar System, every teaspoon of space contains about two protons' weight of dark particles. These particles blow as a wind into us from all directions at one-thousandth the speed of light.

Goodman's and Witten's (GW) idea was to catch this wind in a "sail" – a chunk of metal placed deep underground to shield against other radiation from space. If a nucleus in the metal were seen to recoil spontaneously, it must be the invisible bump of dark matter.

In Ernest Rutherford's gold foil experiment, his team shone a well-understood beam at a mysterious target. GW's idea was the reverse: an enigmatic beam on a familiar target. The goal of the experiment is to measure two quantities: the unknown mass of the dark particle and the unknown rate at which atomic nuclei scatter dark matter particles. Physicists track this rate using a variable called the cross-section.

Consider the passage of light in a vacuum, in glass, and in a piece of rock. In the first case, a photon travels unimpeded; in the second, it travels a good distance before being scattered by an atom; and in the third, it is immediately stopped. We then say, for these three cases respectively, that the scattering cross-section is zero, small, and enormous.

Transparency needn't apply to light alone: any medium can be quantifiably transparent or opaque to any particle type. GW's proposal would have measured the cross section for dark matter to scatter on nuclei down to 10^{-38} cm^2, already a staggeringly tiny quantity. It would imply that dark matter would have to traverse 10 billion km of rock before being stopped.

Scientists are actively pursuing other avenues of research, too. One is to detect dark particles that are lighter than atomic nuclei, for these would scatter feebly off the target nucleus

'The neutrino fog'

These mousetraps for dark matter have since come a long way. Where GW proposed the use of a kilogramme of metal for a day, today scientists expose tonnes of liquid xenon and argon to the dark-matter wind for years. The advantage of going bigger and running longer is that one can catch dark matter that is ghostlier, i.e., with a smaller cross section. As a result, we can now say with a straight face that we have ruled out dark matter-nucleus cross sections of 10^{-44} cm^2, a million times smaller than the GW limit.

This is just the announcement LZ made in August.

Could we go on making our detectors bigger and probe arbitrarily smaller cross sections? Not quite. Future detectors that will weigh tens to hundreds of tonnes will also register much more noise from the scatters of other ghostly particles, especially neutrinos forged in the Sun's interior and in the earth's atmosphere. In fact, PandaX-4T and XENONnT are already reporting this issue. The resignation following LZ's announcement is partly for this reason: scientists had hoped to reveal dark matter's identity before facing this "neutrino fog." Telling dark matter and neutrino signals apart in future searches is a challenge that drives a great deal of research.

Every last drop

Scientists are actively pursuing other avenues of research, too. One is to detect dark particles that are lighter than atomic nuclei, for these would scatter feebly off the target nucleus.

Picture a bug hitting a truck, which would hardly move the vehicle. The goal is to develop technology to perceive the slightest of energy transfers, which involves building detectors using special materials that are currently restricted to the realm of condensed matter physics.

Thus the hunt for dark matter, like that of the Calydonian boar, unites many talents. That is not surprising: the effort to decipher the natural world has always drawn every last drop of human ingenuity.

(Nirmal Raj is an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the Centre for High Energy Physics in the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. nraj@iisc.ac.in)

THE GIST

Dark matter is the invisible stuff making up most of the mass in the universe, responsible for giving the cosmos its current looks. Stars, gas, and planets contribute only 15% to the universe's mass

The simplest contender for the make-up of dark matter is a previously unknown type of particle that doesn't interact with photons and lives for at least the age of the universe, about 14 billion years

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BIG SHOT

A river that overflowed its banks after the passage of Tropical Storm John in Chilpancingo, Mexico, on Friday. The head of Mexico's national meteorological service, Alejandra Mendez, said John had soaked Guerrero with more than 95 cm of rain since September 23, while Otis, a Category 5 hurricane, had brought 35 cm of rain. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Pollen: a mammoth killer?

Vasudevan Mukunth

Pollen is an important substance many plants use to reproduce. It is a gametophyte, a multicellular organism of sorts that delivers the male gamete of a seed-producing plant to the stigma of another such plant.

Each pollen particle consists of reproductive and non-reproductive cells. When the pollen lands on a compatible plant, the non-reproductive cells produce the pollen tube while the reproductive cells multiply to produce the nuclei of sperm cells. The sperm travels through the tube to the base of the pistil, starting the process that eventually produces fruits filled with seeds. When many pollen particles are collected together, they resemble a powder. A natural polymer called sporopollenin surrounds the pollen cells to protect them during their journey through the air and from inclement elements.

Many people are allergic to pollen — this pollen usually comes from anemophilous plants (including birch and hickory); an allergic reaction from grass pollen is called hay fever. The study of pollen is called palynology. A study published in the September 2024 issue of *Earth History and Biodiversity* reported that pollen may have played a part in pushing the mammoths to extinction. Based on genetic analyses, they said the emergence of plants towards the end of the last ice age could have disrupted the megafauna's sense of smell and signalling pathways based on their olfactory system, including locating their group-mates and food sources. However, independent researchers have asked for more proof of the idea before they say it can be accepted.

Pollen may have played a part in the extinction of mammoths. The emergence of plants towards the end of the last ice age could have disrupted their sense of smell. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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Priyank seeks Nirmala's resignation

Minister alleges that companies that incurred huge losses made major donations to the BJP through the now-scrapped electoral bonds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the wake of a first information report (FIR) being registered against her in Bengaluru, following a court direction for allegedly extorting money through the now-scrapped electoral bonds.

The FIR was registered based on a petition filed by the Janadhikara Sangharsh Parishath. Directorate of Enforcement (ED) officials, office-bearers of the BJP at the State and national level, BJP Karnataka president B.Y. Vijayendra, and party leader Nalin Kumar Kateel have also been named in the FIR.

Priyank Kharge

Addressing pressperssons here, Mr. Kharge alleged that companies which incurred huge losses have made major donations to the BJP through the electoral bond scheme and the court found valid grounds to direct the police to register the FIR against Ms. Sitharaman and other BJP leaders.

"If you have morality, then drive out former BJP Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Vijayendra, who is also the Karnataka BJP president. Sack Ms. Sitharaman and Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R. Ashok," Mr. Kharge said. He added, "Munirathna, MLA, should be expelled from the BJP for his alleged involvement in a rape case."

'Will not be scared'

Mr. Kharge said, "Don't scare Congress leaders with the offices of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate and the Raj Bhavan. This is the standard operating procedure of the BJP. We will not be scared. We have a history of 140 years of struggle and will continue our struggle for another 140 years. We grew up fighting against your policies and principles. First, put your house in order before coming for us."

There are FIRs against 23 Ministers, including Union Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, in the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Kharge alleged and defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged MUDA scam.

The Supreme Court, too, had called the electoral bond scheme "unconstitutional", he said. A total of 33 companies running at a loss of ₹1 lakh crore have donated ₹572 crore to the BJP. Another six companies, which have shown a positive net profit, have donated ₹646 crore to the BJP, which is more than their aggregate net profit. Three companies, which had positive net profit but reported negative direct taxes, have donated ₹193.8 crore to the BJP, the Congress Minister claimed.

SIT to probe case against FM?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Highly placed sources in the State government said they were mulling over forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by a senior IPS officer to probe the FIR against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others, in the electoral bonds case.

"The probe into the case requires special skill and cannot be done from a police station setup. But the FIR was registered following directions from the court and even if an SIT has to be formed, the court needs to be informed," a senior official said.

From Page One

Activist complains to ED against CM

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah asserted in Mysuru that he could not be intimidated by political challenges and expressed confidence that he would surmount them all. He said he was confident of facing and overcoming any hurdles, both legally and politically, though his political opponents may try to cause trouble for a few months. "But my conscience is clear and I remain unshaken by any attempt to bring political pressure on me," he added.

FIR against Snehamayi Krishna

Meanwhile, it has now emerged that Mr. Snehamayi Krishna has been booked as accused number 4 in an FIR registered by the Nanjangud town police station for alleged assault, criminal intimidation, and insulting the modesty of a woman.

A 30-year-old woman has lodged a complaint against four persons, including Mr. Krishna, and the Nanjangud town police station has booked them under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) 2023 on August 21, 2024.

When the FIR issue against Mr. Krishna was brought to Mr. Siddaramaiah's notice, the Chief Minister said he had never seen the person.

HDK terms ADGP Chandrashekar a 'blackmailer'; says he will move Centre on his 'illegal' activities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Additional Director-General of Police (SIT), Lokayukta, M. Chandrashekar writing a letter to his colleagues, accusing Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of making false and malicious allegations and threats to deter SIT has ruffled the feathers of the latter, who has labelled the police officer a "blackmailer and criminal".

Speaking to mediapersons here on Sunday, the Union Minister accused the Congress government of trying to protect itself by using such tainted officials. He also stated that he would submit documents related to the alleged illegal activities of the official to the Union Home Secretary.

Mr. Chandrashekar in the letter had said that: "an accused, however, high and mighty he may be, is an accused."

Referring to this, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "I might be an accused in this case, but that officer is a criminal in disguise of a policeman. There are allegations against him related to a series of criminal activities."

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has hinted at a bigger conspiracy behind police officer Chandrashekar writing a letter to his colleagues. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hinting at a bigger conspiracy behind such a letter, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Mr. Chandrashekar has addressed a letter to his colleagues. I know who prepared that letter and where. I will reveal about this in due course of time."

The Union Minister said: "The letter by the official was prepared quite well. After I held a press conference on Saturday morning, I know where that officer went in the evening. I also know which legal experts helped him draft the letter and who else was involved."

Referring to the allegations that the above official had served the State when he was the Chief Minister, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he had not allowed him to behave like this then.

The Union Minister accused Mr. Chandrashekar, a Himachal Pradesh cadre officer, of "creating fake documents" to extend deputation in Karnataka, and indulging in illegal activities in association with a person who has 2,500 FIRs filed against him to fleece money from realtors. "I have decided to submit all these documents to the Home Secretary in New Delhi," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that "an inspector working under this official was caught demanding ₹20 crore. The inspector has filed a complaint against this officer for blackmailing him for ₹2 crore. Isn't that his 'Satyameva Jayate'?" the Minister remarked.

Mr. Kumaraswamy claimed that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his associates lacked moral authority to seek his resignation. "Should I resign just to please Mr. Siddaramaiah? I have done nothing wrong," he said.

DKS takes exception

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar took exception to Mr. Kumaraswamy trying to link Mr. Chandrashekar with the Congress, saying "Mr. Kumaraswamy doesn't know what he is saying. What is the connection between KPCC office and Lokayukta ADGP Chandrashekar," he asked.

BJP 'rebels' say they've complained to party brass against Vijayendra's style of functioning

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP "rebel" leaders made their presence felt yet again by holding a meeting in Davangere on Sunday and said 38 of them had complained to the party high command against the style of functioning of their State president B.Y. Vijayendra. At the same time, they made it clear that they are not seeking change of the State president.

Around 40 leaders, including Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and former MPs Pratap Simha and G.M. Siddeshwar, attended the meeting.

The leaders, however, claimed the meeting was not intended to oppose Mr. Vijayendra. They said they had gathered to express solidarity with some Hindutva leaders who were arrested during the recent Ganesha festival.

Leaders such as Mr. Simha and Mr. Siddeshwar stuck to this stand while Mr. Yatnal admitted there was some dissidence in the party. They visited the house of a party worker who was arrested.

"There is some dissidence in the State BJP. There is no doubt about it. But we have not gathered here to oppose Mr. Vijayendra. It is beyond our authority to change him. We have some issues with his style of functioning and around 38 of us have complained about this to the party high command. I am confident that they will take an appropriate decision. The high command has instructed us not to make public statements about the issue and we will not talk much," he said. To a query, he said they had not insisted on the change of the State president. To a query, he said there was no horse-trading in his party. "It is not an accepted practice. Some of our legislators may be ready for it, but our high command will not allow it," he said.

He claimed there would be a political revolution in the State by December. The revolution that he referred to was not about his party, but about the government, he later said.

Former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, who has vocally opposed Mr. Vijayendra, did not attend the meeting.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Mayoral term gets shortened

The new Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Mangaluru – Manoj Kumar and P.S. Bhanumathi – of the BJP, elected recently, will have a tenure of little over five months in office and not one year. This is because the five-year term of the elected council expires on February 27, 2025. The model code of conduct for the October 21 byelection to the Legislative Council from the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Local Authorities' constituency has further reduced their "functional" term in office only to a little over four months. The code of conduct, which came into force on September 19, a few hours after they got elected, will be in force till October 28.

In 2022, a delay of about six months in announcing reservation to the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor resulted in the mayoral election taking place in early September instead of March. Hence the then Mayor and Deputy Mayor continued in their offices for one-and-a-half-years, with limited powers. Now, the new Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are not allowed to enter their offices, hold meetings or use official cars owing to the model code of conduct. Both of them can exercise their powers only for little over four months.

High praise for guarantees in BJP bastion

A review meeting on the State government's guarantee schemes has received positive feedback from beneficiaries in Mangaluru, though the district is largely seen as the bastion of the Opposition BJP. Buoyed by the positive outcomes of the schemes, Pushpa Amarnath *(in picture)*, vice-president of the State Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee and former head of State Mahila Congress, even used the review meeting held recently for galvanising party workers.

Though Ms. Amarnath held the review meeting two hours behind schedule, a few beneficiaries, including single parents, widows, and homemakers, participated and lauded the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. The scheme had helped them pay school fees and manage household expenses, they said. A woman beneficiary even said that these schemes are not "Bitti bhagya" (freebies as Opposition parties describe them disparagingly) since they helped her save ₹51,000 a year. Happy with the response from the audience, Ms. Amarnath asked how many women would support the Congress, and a majority of the beneficiaries lifted their hands. "I want this image and video to be captured," the Congress leader said and her personnel obliged.

Books instead of bouquet

Members of the Malnad Area Development Board (MADB), which has its headquarters in Shivamogga, met for the first time this year recently, chaired by Congress leader R.M. Manjunath Gowda, who was recently appointed chairman of the board. He offered copies of the book *Kanuru Heggadathi*, one of the two novels by Kuvempu, to members who attended the meeting. The MADB has an area spread over 13 districts and 85 legislators are its members.

Mr. Gowda said the board decided to distribute copies of Kuvempu's novel as it depicted the picturesque Malnad like no other work of fiction did. "Instead of offering a bouquet, it is always better to distribute books to guests," he said.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Scam Alert: Recognize Courier Fraud and Stay Safe

Courier-related cyber frauds are becoming increasingly sophisticated, targeting individuals through deceptive tactics. These fraudsters steal personal information and money, making it vital to stay informed, underscoring the need for vigilance and awareness to safeguard against this rising threat.

The Modus Operandi

Courier fraud is a deceitful scam where fraudsters exploit your fears. The scam often starts with a call from someone pretending to be a courier company customer service representative or from Customs. They claim that a package sent in your name has been seized due to the presence of illegal items. To escalate and bring in sense of authenticity to the situation, they connect you to someone posing as a government official or law enforcement agent. This fraudster then claims that your Aadhaar or PAN details were found with the package containing illegal items, suggesting your involvement in the couriering of illegal items. They create a sense of urgency, threatening arrest or severe legal consequences unless you make an immediate payment to resolve the issue/ make the issue go away. Once the payment is made, the fraudsters vanish, leaving you stunned and financially impacted.

FedEx continues to boost awareness through consistent communication

FedEx is committed to helping wider audiences by informing them about common fraud tactics and providing guidance on verifying courier related communications. The company has been taking proactive steps in public interest with constant communication via print and digital campaigns and updating social media handles with guidance on staying vigilant. Through their dedicated landing page (**https://www.fedex.com/en-in/trust-center/report-fraud.html**), they advise you to recognize signs of courier fraud and help prevent the same; FedEx initiative to educate the unwary is a crucial step in protecting individuals and ensuring they stay vigilant against such deceptive schemes.

Protect Yourself from Courier Fraud

Recognizing the signs of courier fraud is key to protecting yourself. Genuine courier firms or government officials never make unsolicited calls. Always confirm the identity of the caller or sender independently by contacting the official organization directly using a trusted number. Avoid sharing financial or personal information over the phone or email, especially if there's an urgent demand for payment. Be cautious of slightly altered or misspelled website addresses and ensure the URL is correct before clicking. Look for secure website connections (https://) and be wary of messages with poor language or excessive capital letters. Monitor your accounts for unusual activity and enable two-factor authentication for added security. If you're expecting a delivery, check the authenticity of the Air Waybill (AWB) number by visiting the official website. If you're not expecting a package, simply avoid engaging with unknown calls or messages. Remember, fraudsters often use fear and urgency to pressure you into quick actions. To stay safe, always verify details, and never share personal information or make payments without proper confirmation.

Fraudsters are continuously evolving their tactics, making vigilance essential. Stay informed about common scams and report any suspicious activity to 1930 or cybercrime.gov.in. Prompt reporting can help trace and recover lost funds. Stay alert and safeguard yourself against fraud.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of complaints to NRI cell regarding domestic violence

481 The government's NRI cell, which handles cases related to NRI marriages of women both in India and abroad, received 481 complaints from women in 2022, on issues ranging from domestic violence, confiscation of passports etc. PTI

The death toll from the Nepal floods and landslides

148 Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said 148 people had been killed across the country with another 59 still missing. At least 36 of those killed were aboard three vehicles and were buried alive. AFP

Amount earmarked for infra upgrades for Kumbh Mela

993 in ₹ crore. The Railway Ministry has been working on making elaborate arrangements for the Kumbh Mela and has plans to run 992 special trains for the mega religious congregation to be held in Prayagraj in January. PTI

The number of Ukranian drones shot down by Russia

125 The shooting down of drones sparked a wildfire and set an apartment block alight in one of the largest barrages seen over Russian skies since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Sixteen civilians were injured. PTI

The death toll in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023

41,595 The toll includes nine deaths in the last 24 hours, as per the ministry, which said that 96,251 people have been wounded in Gaza since the war began. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are law students at RGNUL protesting?

Is this the first such students' protest at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law? What are the various allegations against the Vice-Chancellor Professor Jai Shankar Singh? Where do talks between the administration and students stand?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

Student-led protests have marred activity at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) after Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Jai Shankar Singh allegedly entered the girls' hostel without prior notice, violating their privacy. Students regard this incident as the last straw in a series of grievances that, in their view, have caused the VC to lose "their mandate" – leading to an indefinite sit-in protest that began on September 22, 2024. Their demands include strengthened campus security, the establishment of a students' association for improved representation, and the implementation of comprehensive academic reforms.

What happened?

Denying the allegations, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that his visit to the first-year female students' rooms was "at their invitation." He claimed that an influx of female students this academic year had led to overcrowding in the girls' hostel, with first-year students being placed in double-occupancy rooms. "These are baseless accusations. I visited the first-year students' rooms only after they repeatedly complained about the shortage of space. I was accompanied by the chief warden and a female security guard," he said.

Refuting Mr. Singh's claim, a fourth-year female student told *The Hindu* that Mr. Singh failed to give either the students or the hostel warden any prior notice of his visit. "According to hostel regulations, access to the girls' hostel is restricted for male members of the university, and even parents are denied entry unless explicitly authorised. This unannounced visit constitutes a grave breach of our privacy, especially since this is our personal space," she said.

Students further claimed that the chief warden and a female security guard only arrived to accompany Mr. Singh only after being summoned by the students. "The VC didn't just visit the first-year students; he also entered the rooms of third-year students. If his intention was solely to address the space issues affecting first-year students, why did he feel the need to enter the rooms of third-year students, who reside in an entirely separate block?" a third-year female student questioned.

However, this is purportedly not the first instance of inappropriate behaviour exhibited by Mr. Singh.

Several students, speaking on the condition of anonymity, alleged that since his appointment in March, he has made sexist and insensitive remarks on multiple occasions. A written representation submitted by the students to the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court – who also serves as the ex-officio Chancellor of the University – attributes numerous instances of moral policing to the VC.

"*Ladki ho, domestic violence ya marriage jaisa Act uthao aur aaram se ghar par course karo. Kyu itna complicated aur naya topic leti ho* (You are a girl, pick a law like domestic violence or marriage and stay back at home and pursue the course. Why do you opt for new and complicated topics)," Mr. Singh allegedly told some female students, as per the representation accessed by *The Hindu*. Additionally, he reportedly questioned the attire of some female students on one occasion.

In rage: A group of students protesting at the Rajiv Gandhi National University in Patiala, Punjab on September 29. SUNDAR SHARMA

Are dialogues underway?

Negotiations between the protesting students and the University administration have repeatedly failed to reach a consensus. Moreover, three faculty members of the nine-member committee constituted to facilitate discussions with the students have resigned without explanation.

Several students reported to *The Hindu* that they have been protesting in sweltering heat and adverse weather conditions, with some even losing consciousness and requiring medical attention. "We tried to arrange for tents, but the university administration intervened and directed suppliers not to honour our requests," claimed a third-year student.

Students also claimed that the administration contacted their parents to stifle the protests, warning them that that their children could face expulsion if they continued to agitate. Mr. Singh, however, denied the allegations and told *The Hindu*, "No calls were made. These are just lies and false accusations."

Are there other grievances?

This is not the first student-led protest that RGNUL has witnessed. In 2019, approximately 400 students agreed to end a five-day indefinite sit-in only after the administration committed to revoking the suspension of six students who had advocated for improved hostel food, enhanced library access for women, and the removal of discriminatory curfew restrictions in the girls' hostel. "Our seniors had protested for the establishment of an official students' association nearly four years ago, yet no progress has been made on that front. It is incredibly difficult to voice our grievances without an official representative body," a fourth-year student said.

Female students have also voiced concerns regarding inadequate security measures. "Since the university is located on the outskirts of Patiala, the road in front of the campus remains deserted. We have repeatedly urged the administration to install street lights, CCTV cameras, and set up a police outpost near the main gate. But our grievances have been dismissed citing a lack of requisite funds," a student told *The Hindu*.

In recent times, NLUs – once hailed as "islands of excellence" by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh – have witnessed a wave of student protests fuelled by a range of factors such as exorbitant fees, inadequate infrastructure, and administrative apathy. According to Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, noted academic and VC of Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna, NLUs witness significantly fewer student protests compared to other universities. "Students in NLUs generally exhibit far greater restraint and refrain from engaging in any form of violence. They exercise their right to protest peaceably without arms. I do not see any problem with it," he told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Mustafa further opined that students, as primary stakeholders, should play an active role in administrative decision-making. "When it comes to conflict resolution, I believe the responsibility lies with the head of the institution to take the initiative. Throughout my 15-year tenure as the VC of various NLUs, I have never subscribed to the 'control model' of university administration. Involving students meaningfully in administrative decisions fosters trust between them and the administration. Ultimately, universities are better run from classrooms than from the VC's office," he added.

What happens next?

Raj Lali Gill, the Chairperson of the Punjab State Women Commission, has written to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the "immediate removal" of Mr. Singh "to restore a safe and respectful environment on the university campus." The recommendation follows her visit to the university, where she met with protesting students and instructed the administration to form a "neutral committee" with student representatives to engage in dialogue.

Additionally, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has reportedly taken cognisance of the students' grievances and assured them of prompt action. Despite Dr. Naresh Vats, the Officiating Registrar of the varsity, announcing that classes would resume on September 27, 2024, students have so far unanimously boycotted them. The University was earlier shut down on account of the ongoing protests.

THE GIST

- Student-led protests have marred activity at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) after Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Jai Shankar Singh allegedly entered the girls' hostel without prior notice, violating their privacy.
- Denying the allegations, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that his visit to the first-year female students' rooms was "at their invitation."
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Bengaluru start-up aims to solve cold chain logistics for healthcare

The company has developed a portable battery-powered cooling device that can carry medical supplies to hinterlands with limited electricity access

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

A portable device Phloton has a 2-litre chamber than can keep up to 20 vials of vaccines at 4-6 degrees Celsius. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Phloton being tested out at dairy farm in Karnataka.

Prerit Mittal

Ankita Mittal

In a mostly tropical country like India where regions experience high temperatures during the daytime, the lack of reliable last-mile cold chain has been a major challenge in healthcare. An effective mechanism to transport temperature-sensitive to remote rural settlements, or diagnostic samples from villages to the nearest urban centres is a crucial requirement not only in India, but across the world in developing countries.

Bengaluru-based start-up Enhance Innovations may have a solution for this. The company has developed Phloton, a portable battery-powered cooling device that can carry medical supplies to hinterlands with limited electricity access.

Last mile solutions

"For a country like India where diabetes is so common, there are places you can't safely store or carry insulin to because there's not enough refrigeration available," says Ankita Mittal, CEO at Enhance Innovations, underlining the gravity of the situation.

According to WHO estimates, 50% of vaccines are wasted globally every year. A major reason is lack of temperature control and ineffective cold chain logistics.

"Till the point of public health centres (PHC) it's fine. We have big refrigerators or freezers to keep these vaccines safe. But from the PHC to the point of administration, especially in rural settings, it becomes a challenge," points out Mittal.

"Everybody in an entire block cannot come to the PHC. ASHA workers carry medications and vaccines to administer to people, but how do we make sure they can carry it safe?"

In most places, the existing mechanism is to carry the vaccines in iceboxes. However, within the first hour of being taken out of the refrigerator, these boxes lose 50% of their cooling. In India, places that are several hours away from the nearest PHC are not rare. This means that by the time the vaccine reaches such places and is administered to people, there is a possibility of icebox becoming warmer rendering the vaccines ineffective.

The severity of the situation further hit Mittal and her brother Prerit Mittal when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world.

"When the pandemic happened, we realised that this is something which can hit us anytime. The global healthcare system was shaken up."

"In India, COVID was urban-centric. Tomorrow if an outbreak which does not differentiate between urban and rural population happens, what do you do? How do you safely carry a vaccine to everyone? We wondered what can be done to plug such gaps," says Mittal.

The team thus started working with scientists at the National Physical Laboratory of India to develop an effective coldchain solution that can augment the existing healthcare system. The result was Phloton.

Temperature

A portable device, Phloton has a 2-litre chamber than can keep upto 20 vials of vaccines at 4-6 degrees Celsius. According to the founders, the device can maintain the temperature for around 10 hours and offers live temperature monitoring.

"To cover for any challenges midway, we have integrated a solar panel to it. In locations with higher temperature, the battery can drain faster. So if there's a challenge midway, you can plug in the solar panel, charge the device and carry it further forward," Mittal explains.

According to her, three hours of sunlight can charge the battery fully.

Technology

The technology used to develop the device is in fact not new. Phloton uses an active cooling methodology based on the thermoelectric effect.

"It's called piezoelectric devices," Mittal explains. These devices are by now used in everyday devices such as phones, smart watches and laptops. "It creates a thermal deficit, takes away the heat to cool the device down and dissipates that heat. It works very well for small devices," she notes. "The patent for the piezoelectric module has expired. What is patentable for us is its application - the design or the circuitry we put around it to make Phloton."

Exploring more markets

The company which currently waits for CDSCO approval and plans to later apply for WHO sanctions foresees a big market which is not limited to healthcare.

Given the government's mandate to ensure that everyone is vaccinated, they hope that the biggest customer would be public healthcare programmes. Private hospitals may also require the device when they have to transport high-value medication such as oncology drugs, they point out.

"Diagnostic chains is another market. Using such devices can increase the reliability of their results," Mittal notes.

"Biomedical research, organ transport, F&B, animal husbandry, agriculture, cosmetics...the scope is vast," she adds.

Finding new business tracks

However, since the device is pending approvals, the team notes that they are not going to the market aggressively for human vaccines although they claim to have working orders.

In the meantime, they have been working with animal husbandry organisations such as Akshayakalpa, URMUL in Rajasthan and a dairy collective in Uttar Pradesh.

At Akshayakalpa and URMUL, the device was tested out to address bovine and camel vaccine spoilage respectively.

"These organisations have been testing out our devices for bovine vaccines and artificial insemination samples. The results have been great so far," Mittal notes.

"While the drive to venture into this was human healthcare, when we started field trials, we realised it has so many different applications. Animal husbandry is currently looking like a good parallel business track. There have been no adverse events from the field so far."

From India for the world

While the device has been designed as a scalable, modular, easy-to-carry solution, some design tweaks are currently being made for large scale manufacturing as the team is looking to scale up production with a good number of working orders coming in.

So far supported by grants from USAID, Social Alpha, BIRAC and a few incubators, they are now planning to active fundraise from venture capital firms.

"By the middle of next year, we would like to explore geographies outside India. In parallel we also aim to do more product development based on the same technology. Challenges in terms of geographies, accessibility, and disconnected populations exist across the world. The device is designed keeping India in mind, but it is designed for the challenges of the developing world."

Panel discussion on the importance of igniting children's imagination

(From left to right) Prakasha Rao, Dr. Megha Mahajan, Mandira Bedi, Ali Harris Shere, and Fr. Rohan D'Almeida S.J. with the children. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sona Christy
BENGALURU

The ITC Group organized a panel discussion titled "The Importance of Igniting a Child's Imagination" recently at St. Joseph's School in the city.

The day also saw the launch of a bus equipped with a special LiDAR screen, with the aim to help children explore their creativity and imagination using technology.

Some of the key participants included scientist and ex-ISRO director Prakasha Rao, COO of Biscuits & Cakes at ITC Ali Harris Shere, child psychiatrist Dr. Megha Mahajan, film personality Mandira Bedi and Fr. Rohan D'Almeida S.J., Principal of St. Joseph's School.

Mandira Bedi began the discussion by talking about the challenges she faces as a mother. " It is astonishing how my eight-year-old daughter's imagination progresses day by day while my thirteen-year-old son has pruned his imagination concerning reality," she said, while Mahajan explained the science of imagination and D'Almeida talked about how imaginative teachers and parents need to be to support their students and children.

Harris Shere, spoke about how everyone, including children, has the right to enter a fantasy world and discussed ITC's latest launch, the 'Fantasy Spaceship,' a bus equipped with expansive interactive screens that will travel to schools across India.

When spilling the beans is not an option

If *Where Eagles Dare* belongs in the pantheon of great getaway films, that is partly because of the impressive number of modes of transport deployed, says Geoff Dyer

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

A scene from the 1968 movie *Where Eagles Dare*.

In my schooldays when reading an entire series of thrillers or spy novels was good etiquette, Alistair Maclean supplied both genres. We regretted there were no school exams on the Complete Works of Maclean.

But even as we were slicing through the oeuvre, many of us were aware that Maclean could be thrilling and unreadable, predictable and surprising in turn. I wondered if adults actually read this stuff. Recently, I discovered a kindred soul - the English writer Geoff Dyer, who said, "*Where Eagles Dare* is unreadably bad in spite of its narrative allure. Was I, as a second and third former at Grammar school firmly in the midst of the Maclean-buying demographic?"

The movie of the book is another matter. Steven Spielberg called it his favourite war movie. The novelist Michael Ondaatje is a fan. Most of us of a certain age have watched it more than once - it is a direct link to our adolescence.

In his lovely book about the movie, *Broadsword Calling Danny Boy,* Dyer summarises the plot well: "They've got to get in and get Carnaby out, before he spills the beans on the Second Front."

'They' are a group of seven being dropped across enemy lines to the Schloss Adler, the Castle of the Eagles (so named because only eagles can get there). Two airmen are of particular interest: Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton. "Squinting is pretty much the limit of Eastwood's facial range as an actor," says Dyer, "Eastwood has squinted his way through five decades of superstardom in a way that renders him, in facial terms monosyllabic."

As the mission commences, Burton looks anxious because "he has money worries....he has enough dough to burn an elephant, he has got into the habit of buying so much stuff that he might not have enough money to buy even more stuff. That's one of the motives for doing a picture like this...so that he can buy his modern-day Cleopatra things like a jet..."

Dyer analyses plot thus: "If *Where Eagles Dare* belongs in the pantheon of great getaway films, that is partly because of the impressive number of modes of transport deployed." This includes the cable car, which must have been very exciting in the 1970s.

Being funny without cracking a joke or carrying a scene to its preposterous limit is a Dyer specialty. He stands alone in the genre of auto non-fiction. The range of references - from literature, movies, music and the arts - add to the fun.

This being Maclean, about half the party are double agents, bent on killing the others.

Bridges are blown up, buildings destroyed, cable cars reduced to nothing and fresh rubble deposited everywhere by Burton's posse. Dyer wonders how many years it will take to rebuild it all. Still, he says, "all things considered this has gone swimmingly. You couldn't hope to come out of a five-a-side football game in better shape than this. It's also been immensely profitable for everyone concerned."

What more can you ask of a movie experience?

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1974

HAL Earns Rs. 9.49Cr. Profit

BANGALORE, Sept. 29. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) baa earned a net profit of Rs. 8.49 crores In 1973-74. after providing for depreciation, interest on long-term loans and 8-1/3 per cent ex-gratia bonus to its employees. The company had made a net profit of Rs. 4.14 crores in 1972-73.

In production and sales turnover, the company had registered a record over the previous year's achievement. During 1973-74 its production was valued at Rs. 98 crores as compared to Rs. 79 crores in 1972-73 accounting for an Increase of 24 per cent. Sales turnover of the company In 1973-74 was Rs. 89 crores as against Rs. 74 crores in 1972-73. an Increase of 15 per cent, according to the annual report for' 1973-74.

The company continued to manufacture at its 11 factories located in six different States.

Mastan Held Secret Conferences in Bangalore

Bangalore Sept 29: Haji Mastan, one of the three alleged top smugglers, who was arrested here 10 days ago used Bangalore to hold secret conferences with ' foreign smuggler kings and probably converted some of the ill-gotten money into white money. The Customs authorities here had reasons to believe that some of the top smugglers had interest in some hotels in Bangalore, but not in their own names. A part of the ill-gotten money was converted into white money under the guise of hotel earnings. There was, however, no such definite Information with these authorities about the use of cinema houses for conversion of money by the smugglers.

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

The Mullenweg-WP Engine dispute and how WordPress users are affected

WordPress is software that people can use to build a website, blog or e-commerce portal on the internet. While WP Engine is a company that offers managed hosting services for WordPress websites, Matt Mullenweg is the founder and CEO of Automattic, the company that owns WordPress.com

Vasudevan Mukunth

Since September 21, a dispute between Matt Mullenweg, the technologist at the centre of the WordPress community, and a company called WP Engine has snowballed rapidly into a crisis for lakhs of WordPress users around the world. WordPress reputedly powers more than 40% of all websites on the internet, so policies that affect users' ability to access the software's features could have a wide-ranging impact.

WordPress and Mullenweg

WordPress is a piece of software people can use to build a website, blog or e-commerce portal on the internet. As open-source software, it's built, tested, deployed, and popularised by a community of thousands of volunteer developers located around the world. It is available under a GPL licence, which allows others to modify the software while obligating them to distribute the new version under the same licence.

A WordPress website can be self-hosted: you can download a copy of WordPress for free from WordPress.org to use for websites hosted on your own server. In the hosted version, you pay a fee to a third party to manage your website's WordPress setup and infrastructure. WP Engine is one such third party.

Matt Mullenweg is the founder and CEO of Automattic, a for-profit company that owns many digital products. One of them is WordPress.com, a hosted WordPress offering. Mullenweg also personally owns WordPress.org, which dispenses the open-source WordPress for download. This said, Automattic isn't directly affiliated with WordPress.org or the WordPress Foundation. It contributes nearly 3,988 hours per week towards WordPress development, however.

The trademark dispute

On September 21, Mullenweg accused WP Engine of being a "cancer" to the WordPress community. His ire was directed at WP Engine's decision to disable the ability of WordPress installed on sites it hosts to record changes made to content composed using the system. WP Engine's stated reason was that this feature led to bloated databases that eventually slowed websites. Mullenweg also alleged WP Engine was profiting from free access to WordPress without itself contributing to WordPress's development.

After the post appeared, WP Engine shot off a cease-and-desist (C&D) letter to Automattic on September 23 asking Mullenweg to stop disparaging WP Engine. Automattic's lawyers responded with a C&D letter to WP Engine alleging the latter had violated a trademark.

According to Automattic's letter, WP Engine's use of the label "WP" in its name has confused consumers into equating WP Engine with WordPress itself. WP Engine rebutted by quoting a line from the WordPress Foundation website's page on "Trademark Policy": "The abbreviation 'WP' is not covered by the WordPress trademarks and you are free to use it in any way you see fit." But at some point after September 21 the line was edited to: "The abbreviation 'WP' is not covered by the WordPress trademarks, but please don't use it in a way that confuses people."

WP Engine also said it had been using the label "WP" for "more than a decade". Trademark law in the U.S. expects trademark owners to act to sanction potentially infringing uses. If they don't, they are liable to lose the trademark. WP Engine's argument is thus that it has been able to use the "WP" label for many years without inviting punitive action.

An unprecedented ban

On September 24, Mullenweg wrote in a Reddit post that WP Engine "had the option to license the WordPress trademark for 8% of their revenue, which could be delivered either as payments, people ... or any combination of the above." The 8% figure, which would have amounted to $40 million a year from WP Engine, has not been specified anywhere else. The next day, Mullenweg banned WP Engine from directly accessing updates and plug-ins hosted on WordPress.org, abruptly breaking the normal function of several lakh WordPress websites (the updates are essential for WordPress websites to remain secure). This action greatly exacerbated negative sentiments towards Mullenweg in the WordPress community that had erupted after his "cancer" comment.

One point of contention among community members centred on WP Engine's decision to disable revision control, which Mullenweg had translated to WP Engine's private equity ownership "butchering" WordPress in order to cut costs. Members also highlighted the confusion surrounding Mullenweg's role vis-à-vis WordPress. According to the WordPress Foundation, Automattic has a licence to use the "WP" for commercial activities.

Should WP Engine be liable to pay a trademark licence fee, it will be to the Foundation – yet the C&D letter alleging trademark misuse came from Automattic, not the Foundation.

Many developers have also construed Mullenweg's decision to ban WP Engine's access to WordPress.org to be a subversion of the WordPress open-source community's equal-opportunity structure in favour of an Automattic CEO's bid to resolve a dispute driven by himself. They have also alleged Mullenweg has a conflict of interest since WP Engine competes directly with Automattic's WordPress.com.

An uncertain future

Despite WP Engine not being obligated to contribute to WordPress development, Mullenweg has maintained it isn't entitled to access WordPress.org because such access is vouchsafed for services that benefit the WordPress community. He told *The Verge* his actions erect "an expectation that any business making hundreds of millions of dollars off of an open source project ought to give back".

On September 27, Mullenweg temporarily restored WP Engine's access to resources on WordPress.org until October 1 while asking stakeholders to blame WP Engine's leaders, not him, for the disruption.

The WordPress Foundation filed an application in July with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to trademark the terms "Managed WordPress" and "Hosted WordPress".

In the present context, this has sowed more uncertainty amid independent hosting providers, who are seeking clarity from Automattic and keep legal action against their businesses at bay.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Dame Maggie Smith, one of the most acclaimed and loved actors of our time, who passed away recently

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Maggie Smith was one of the few actresses to earn the 'Triple Crown of Acting'. Name the series for which she got the Emmy that helped her complete the honour.

QUESTION 2
Maggie Smith won her first Oscar for playing the titular character in which 1969 flick?

QUESTION 3
Which character did she play in Steven Spielberg's *Hook*, a take on Peter Pan?

QUESTION 4
Harry Potter fans know Ms. Smith as the one playing the legendary Prof. McGonagall. Her face-off with another popular character nearly did not make it to film but for author J.K. Rowling insisting it should be included. Which scene?

QUESTION 5
Name her co-star in her first Oscar-winning film, *Travels With My Aunt*, whom she married and had two sons with.

QUESTION 6
Maggie Smith starred alongside this thespian's daughter Finty Williams in *Gosford Park*, while the other thespian shared the screen with Smith's son in *Die Another Day*. Name the fellow thespian.

Visual question:
Name the character played by Maggie Smith in *Downton Abbey*.

Questions and Answers to the September 27 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The school Bhagat Singh attended in his boyhood. **Ans: Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore**
2. The word Singh and his comrades added to HRA thus changing it to HSRA. **Ans: Socialist**
3. The name of the British officer assassinated by Bhagat Singh and Rajguru. **Ans: John P. Saunders**
4. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly in opposition to the introduction of these sets of laws. **Ans: Public Safety Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill**
5. The number of days of hunger strike Bhagat Singh underwent in protest of the treatment of political prisoners. **Ans: 116 days**
Visual: The period for which Bhagat Singh was detained in connection with the Lahore Dussehra bomb case of 1926. **Ans: May 29 to July 4, 1927**
Early Birds: Anwesha Mandal| C. Saravanan| Arvind Tillway| Piyali Tuli| Vivek Raj

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I got the entire six-course meal for free!

You should store the money you saved on the meal in your piggy bank for a rainy day

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'The opposition skunked our team'?
When used as a noun, the word 'skunk' is mostly used to refer to the animal which squirts or sprays a foul-smelling liquid on its attacker. The smell is so bad that the attacker flees. The word is sometimes used with human beings as well. When you refer to an individual as a 'skunk', what you are suggesting is that he is rather unpleasant; he is disliked and not trusted by those around him.

There's no way I'm inviting that skunk to the party.

Unlike in British English, Americans frequently use the word 'skunk' as a verb as well. When you say that the rival team 'skunked' you, what you mean is that they defeated you quite badly; it was an easy victory for them. In a game like football, it also suggests that your team failed to score a single goal.

Nobody expected Harish to skunk Sanjay in straight sets.

The expression 'drunk as a skunk' is used informally to mean 'very drunk'.

Which is correct? "I got it for free" or "I got it free"? (Amar, Bengaluru)
If you love your grammar, and strongly believe that all rules should be followed blindly, then you would argue that 'for free' is grammatically incorrect. You would maintain that the word 'free' is an adjective and not a noun; therefore, a preposition like 'for' should not precede it. We cannot, therefore, say 'for free'. But as we know, rules are meant to be broken. It has become common nowadays, even among native speakers of English, to say 'for free'. In informal contexts, we hear sentences like 'I got it for free'.

What is the origin of the term 'piggy bank'? (K. George, Cochin)
Nowadays, when you hear the word 'piggy bank', you immediately think of an object shaped like a pig, which parents give their children in order to encourage them to save money. Whenever a child receives money from the parents or relatives, they are expected to put it in the little bank. The curious among you may wonder why this 'bank' is shaped like a 'pig' – after all, this animal, is not known for its ability to save – it never stores food for winter. The only thing it does is eat.

As you are probably aware, several centuries ago the dishes and utensils that we make use of today were made of clay, and not metal. In England, the clay that was used to make jugs, jars, plates, etc. was called 'pygg'. Whenever a housewife managed to save some money, she used to put it in a 'pygg jar' which she called 'pygg bank' – meaning 'clay bank'. Around the 18th century the spelling of the clay was changed to 'pig', and by the time the 19th century arrived, most people had forgotten that the word 'pig' in 'pig bank' referred to a type of clay and not the animal.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Illusory:
based on or having the nature of an illusion.

Usage: *His hopes would soon prove to be illusory.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/illusorypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪˈluːs(ə)ɹi/, /ɪˈluːz(ə)ɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CITYBEATS

Navratri special

OCTOBER 4
The Salt Indian Restaurant has curated a Navratri special menu, which will be available between October 4 and 13. The food is created adhering to traditional fasting guidelines and has dishes without onions and garlic – tokri chaat, beetroot galouti kebab, lotus stem bezule, palak corn kofta curry, Navratri subzi korma and more.
Visit saltrestaurants.in for details.

Something's brewing

OCTOBER 1
Paper & Pie, a cafe known for its blends from the Bynemara Estate in Chikmagalur, celebrates International Coffee Day with a curated coffee workshop and relaxed co-working spaces. With a range of brews, you can enjoy poached eggs with avocado toast, spinach kale crepes and more.
At Paper & Pie outlets in Indiranagar, Whitefield, and Bellandur.

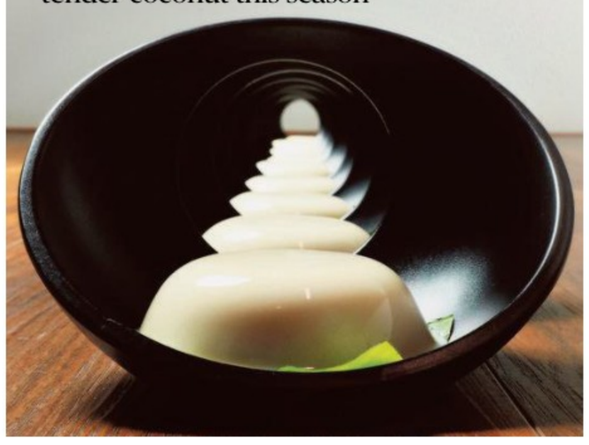
Power packed

FRIDAYS ONLY
Rajdhani has launched Power Lunch Fridays. This thali is priced at ₹499 plus taxes and is designed to cater to corporate professionals. The offer is valid for dine-in customers only who will have to present a valid ID card to avail the offer which is open to corporate team lunches too.
At Rajdhani, Level - 2, Phoenix Market City, Whitefield Main Road.

From Nature's bounty The coconut is proving to be a versatile ingredient in various cuisines this season. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nuts about the coconut

Appam, carpaccio, and mousse. How India's chefs are making the most of tender coconut this season



Nidhi Adlakha

Apples, grapes, and melons might be the highlight of the season, but this time around it is the tender coconut highlighting menus across the country. Chefs have taken the versatile coconut – used in everything from curries, batters, and desserts – and are using its flesh to give dishes a gourmet take. Think cloud-like puddings, seafood favourites, and more.

At KOKO – in Mumbai and Bengaluru – the classic carpaccio gets an inventive twist with a starter featuring finely sliced tender coconut. "The KOKO Signature Carpaccio was inspired by the desire to offer a vegan option that mirrored the taste and texture of the highly popular KOKO Hamachi Carpaccio with fish," says Keenan Tham, co-founder of Pebble Street Hospitality, that runs Asian restaurants Foo and KOKO. The vegan version achieves its meaty-like texture by using tender coconut milk, and "pairs perfectly with the same spice elements that made the Hamachi Carpaccio a favourite – jalapenos and a special sauce".

Chef Regi Mathews of popular Kerala restaurant chain Kappa Chakka Kandhari uses tender coconut water to prepare appam batter. "It is a unique concept I learnt from my mother who often used to use fresh tender coconut water for the batter instead of the more common toddy that is used for fermentation," he says.

South Indian cuisine aside, coconuts also find their way into Goan and Maharashtrian cuisine. In Goa, Chef Avinash Martins of Cavatina says the coconut is used in various forms in his mother cuisine, Goan. "But I go a step further and reimagine Goan food with my techniques." In his dish Prawns Who Drank The Feni, the Chef has drawn from the popular Bengali prawn curry, *daab chingri*. "I've used tender coconut water as a medium to grind all the masalas with coconut. The thin coconut meat aka malai adds a creamy texture to the curry," says Chef Avinash, adding how the prawns are flambéed in coconut feni.

A twist on the classic Goan dried seafood dish, kismur, O Pedro in Mumbai features the Tender Coconut KIS-MUR on its menu: a dish with a spicy coconut masala, curry leaves, and tamarind chilli glaze. Hussain Shahzad, executive chef, Hunger Inc. Hospitality (O Pedro, Bombay Canteen), explains how the traditional version is made with prawns or fish and coconut. "We wanted to create a vegetarian version and our adaptation uses tender coconut, which offers a texture similar to seafood. The tender coconut meat is tempura-fried and tossed in a dry masala of coconut, curry leaves, onions, and Goan garam masala, which is then dressed in a tamarind chilli glaze," says Hussain, of the dish served in a coconut shell.

In your dessert

While popular desserts with tender coconut include payasams and jellies, a few restaurants and star hotels have taken it up a notch by using the ingredient in multiple ways. At The Oberoi Bengaluru, for instance, the Coconut Influence (served at the Thai restaurant, Rim Naam) features a coconut mousse set in a chocolate shell, shaped like a slice of coconut.

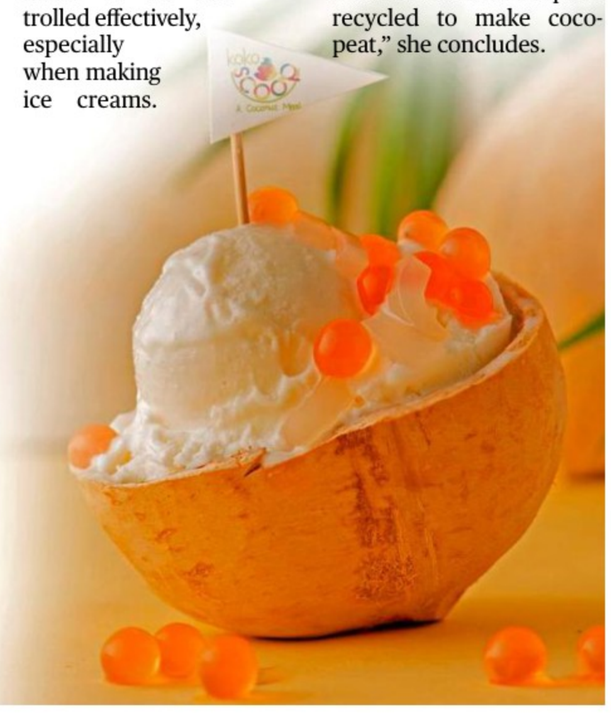
Chef Anirban Dasgupta, executive chef, The Oberoi Bengaluru, says the dish launched a few months ago have been a hit among diners. Having said that, given the short shelf life of tender coconut, working with it poses a set of challenges too. "The production of these dishes is done on a day-to-day basis due to the short shelf life of the ingredient. For the pre-plated dessert we undertake production two days in advance based on our analysis of its demand."

A dessert synonymous with coconut lovers has to be the fluffy white Cloud Pudding at Kappa Chakka Kandhari. "We launched in July 2018 with a tender coconut pudding on the menu, but by December we renamed it cloud pudding as several diners, especially children, nudged us to call it that given the dish's cloud-like texture," says Chef Regi of the dessert made using tender coconut, coconut milk, milk, sugar, chinagrass, and "lots of love".

At Chennai's Pandan Club, the menu features a range of dishes with coconut milk, and tender coconut in cocktails. "Keeping coconuts fresh requires careful storage and regular inventory checks to prevent spoilage. This is also one of the reasons why we source our coconuts locally," says co-founder Manoj Padmanaban. Their Blue Pea Flower Rice Cake is crafted with glutinous rice infused with blue pea flowers, topped with creamy coconut milk and a drizzle of gula melaka caramel.

Given tender coconut's high moisture content, it needs to be controlled effectively, especially when making ice creams. "The trick is to follow a particular technique to control water molecules as much as possible to get a creamy texture. So techniques matter, and our ice cream's base is made with coconut milk, and it is blended with tender coconut water and pulp processed in-house," says Snehithi Jambulingam of Chennai-based artisanal ice cream cafe, Strictly Desserts, which features a tender coconut ice cream on its menu, and a tender coconut and mango cake. "The tender coconut mousse is made with the coconut malai, tender coconut water, and the mousse has chunks of malai in it for the bite," says Snehithi, who sources the coconut from a local vendor at Anna Nagar, where her studio is based.

Pune-based dessert bar Kokoscoop – that also has branches in Bengaluru – draws from Thailand's popular concept of serving ice cream in a coconut shell. Founder Dnyanada Divekar says, "We started the brand in 2017 after a holiday in Thailand. The ice cream is served in a freshly cut coconut shell, and the coconut meat aka malai is served alongside with toppings and a glass of coconut water." Dnyanada says while the dessert is popular, tackling procurement costs that vary based on seasons, and even dealing with the waste is a challenge. "Which is why coconut shells at Kokoscoop are recycled to make cocopeat," she concludes.



A quiet indulgence Caffeine Baar on Church Street. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hits: Babka, rosemary cinnamon mocha
Misses: none
Wallet factor: ₹700 for two

EATING OUT

Raising the bar

Ruth Dhanaraj

I was asked how I liked my coffee. Black, I answered. "What kind of black?" Now, that's a question you do not get asked a lot, but be ready with an answer if you are heading to The Caffeine Baar.

Coffee has long ceased to be a simple affair with milk and sugar being the only options; at The Caffeine Baar it has been elevated to a signature experience where one can single out their coffee preference from sweet, salty, sour, spicy, bitter and umami. Yes, that's right, coffee can be savoury and spicy too.

Freshly ground from beans harvested from the Baarbara Estate in Chikmagalur, make up all the coffee at The Caffeine Baar founded by Sreeraksha Poornesh and Poojya. Their shelves and menu card sport variants such as honey sun-dried, pineapple fermentation, frozen cherry and more, among their manual brews.

If you have the time and inclination, opt for their coffee-tasting menu to gauge which flavour profile gives you a buzz. Distilled and decocted, these extracts sit pretty and chilled in wine glasses and whiskey goblets. From jackfruit and jalapeno for those who love some zing to matcha and lavender syrup for a mellower feel, these drinks are unlike any you may have savoured.

One can only watch mesmerised as your coffee sommelier/mixologist whirrs up a nitro canister, syphon brewer or magnetic stirrer to pour you a glass that is as unexpected as it is delightful. And while the coffees and coffee-extract beverages are a delight, the food menu is nothing to scoff at.

We start with one of their open sourdough toasts – the scrambled egg and harissa hummus. It is a great choice for brunch or the start of a busy day. Spicy and tangy, drizzled over with chilli oil, it hits the spot and once you top it off with a hot cuppa, there is not much that can faze you out just then.

Or if you would like a milder start, opt for the avocado toast. Topped with feta and pomegranates, the mildly flavoured choice is for those who would rather ease into their day.

I enjoy my toast with a rosemary cinnamon mocha. One of their house specials, this steaming cup of goodness had flavours and aromas which overlapped in a delightful way that coffee and chocolate have a way of doing.

The all-day breakfast menu has a wide selection of smoothies, pancakes and eggs, hoppers and stew, pastas and burgers, as well as vegan options.

Finally we settle for a protein bowl. It is a hearty helping of roasted vegetables, bean patties, mushrooms and superfood grains topped with a herb sauce. Servings like these make you feel good about choosing healthy options.

Talking of choices, our final one was the babka. Crispy, soft and sweet, it arrived at our table with the intoxicating aroma of cinnamon wafting in after it.

I sent back the pot of hot chocolate sauce and scoop of ice cream, because it was so good on its own. Adding those toppings would have taken it to levels too decadent for me to handle. Perhaps another day.

Certain dishes at Caffeine Baar are available only on the weekends. And it would be best to book a coffee tasting slot beforehand, as it can take close to an hour and a half, if you are serious about savouring their different profiles.

India Post creates postcards on Paralympics winners

Akila Kannadasan

When India started winning medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, an idea struck a small team that consisted of an artist and deltiologists in Tamil Nadu.

Chennai-based P Venkatesan, the founding treasurer of Postcrossing Society of India and artist S Sivabalan, who is based in Virudhunagar, got down to creating postcards with line-drawings of the medal winners.

The set, that consists of 28 postcards featuring gold, silver, and bronze medallists, was released on September 25 by India Post at the General Post Office in Bengaluru

"We quickly created a postcard each on the same days India won medals," says Venkatesan, adding that India Post released a set of seven postcards featuring gold medallists on September 9 this year.

The complete set was released on Antyodaya Diwas (September 25) celebrated on Deendayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary, observed for the upliftment of the marginalised.

"Paralympians have it tougher," Venkatesan feels, adding that the set is an ode to their efforts. "We need to celebrate them," he says, "Also, this time, we've had more participants from South India." The set is an initiative of the Postcrossing Society of India and Venkatesan says their team is grateful for India Post's support. "Colonel Akhil Kumar, the president of the society, was instrumental is getting their approval," he notes.

Grit and glory The set of 28 picture postcards. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A set of 28 postcards featuring gold, silver, and bronze medallists, was released on September 25 at the General Post Office in Bengaluru

India Post recently issued a set of stamps on the Paris Olympics 2024. Venkatesan says that this, when combined with the postcards, will make for an excellent philately item for collectors. "This set will especially be of interest to members of the Postcrossing Society of India who are present across the county. They will be keen to collect it," he says, adding that the set is ideal for those wishing to display it at exhibitions.

When postcards are dropped into a post box, they gain more value. "They will then be stamped and would travel long distances before reaching us," explains Venkatesan. "This will make them a 'travelled item', rendering them more authentic for collectors."

Anvar goes all out against CPI(M) leadership

In public meeting in Nilambur, MLA calls Pinarayi Vijayan a liar and says his popularity has gone down and people now hate him; adds he gave proof against ADGP's illegal wealth amassment, claiming RSS has done many things using the official; reiterates SP Sujith Das is involved in gold smuggling

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

P.V. Anvar, Independent MLA of Nilambur, lashed out at the ruling CPI(M) at a massive rally convened to explain his stand on Sunday. "Nobody is anyone's slave. You will not get any more slaves in Kerala," he said, referring to the CPI(M).

Terming Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan a liar, Mr. Anvar said he had met Mr. Vijayan, who was a fatherly figure for him, for 37 minutes and not five minutes as claimed by the Chief Minister. "I sat with him for 37 minutes. My complaint had nine pages. He asked me everything and I told him everything I knew," said Mr. Anvar. The Chief Minister had a halo around him which had brought the Left Democratic Front (LDF) back to power in 2021, he said. "I told Mr. Vijayan that halo has vanished, and his graph has gone down to zero. People hate him now," he said.

'Land of lawlessness'

In an all-out attack on the CPI(M) leadership, Mr. Anvar asserted that he was not against the party and its cadre. He said the State had become a land of lawlessness and about one-fourth of the police force had been criminalised.

The role of ADGP M.R. Ajith Kumar in the disappearance of Mami, a real-

MLA P.V. Anvar addressing a public meeting at Nilambur in Kozhikode on Sunday against LDF government. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tor in Kozhikode, should be investigated, he said. He said the Chief Minister ignored the solid pieces of evidence he had submitted to incriminate the ADGP. "I gave documented proof on Mr. Ajith's illegal wealth amassment. Nothing happened. The RSS has done many things in the State using Mr. Ajith," he said.

'Communal venom'

Reasserting the secular credentials of his family, Mr. Anvar said the State was plunging into a pathetic condition where people were being branded by their names. "Believing in a religion is not communalism, but hating and opposing others is," he said. "They branded me communal just because I pray five times a day."

He said people like Shajan Scaria, editor of a YouTube channel, were spitting communal venom and trying to destroy the secular fabric of society with the support of those in power. The ADGP helped Mr. Scaria go scot-free after committing an 'anti-national' crime of tapping the police wireless system.

He said the police led by former SP Sujith Das were involved in a large gold smuggling racket centred around Karipur airport. He described how the police team of Mr. Das snatched the gold illegally brought in by carriers in connivance with the Customs at Karipur.

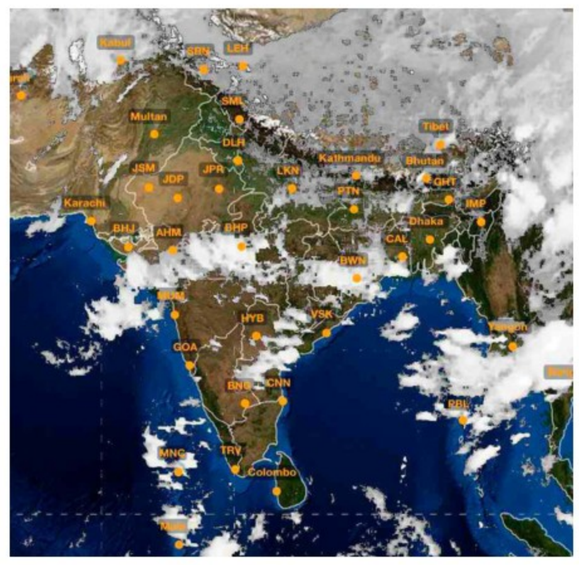
FIR against Anvar

The Kottayam Police registered a first information report against Mr. Anvar based on an illegal wiretapping complaint filed by a private citizen.

Mr. Anvar had triggered a political storm that caught Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office (CMO) and law enforcement in its dead centre by broadcasting a contemporaneous electronic recording of a mobile phone conversation with Mr. Sujith.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Kerala & Mahe, South Interior Karnataka. Thunderstorm accompanied gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Kerala & Mahe, Telangana.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.0	27.2	Kozhikode	—	34.4	26.8
Ahmedabad	0.8	30.4	25.0	Kurnool	—	36.1	26.9
Aizawl	—	33.0	22.2	Lucknow	8	27.6	24.0
Allahabad	1.0	34.0	25.7	Madurai	—	36.4	25.6
Bengaluru	15	30.8	20.5	Mangaluru	—	31.0	24.8
Bhopal	20	31.0	24.0	Mumbai	7	31.8	24.5
Bhubaneswar	0.6	29.8	25.4	Mysuru	11	33.7	—
Chandigarh	—	33.2	24.2	New Delhi	—	33.0	22.4
Chennai	—	33.4	26.5	Patna	15.5	31.5	24.7
Coimbatore	5.0	33.5	23.2	Port Blair	—	32.4	25.5
Dehradun	—	32.3	23.2	Puducherry	8.8	34.1	26.8
Gangtok	—	—	—	Pune	0.5	32.2	22.7
Goa	0.2	31.2	24.6	Raipur	—	34.6	25.0
Guwahati	2.0	32.6	25.6	Ranchi	—	31.0	23.2
Hubballi	—	32	23	Shillong	5	21.1	17.3
Hyderabad	—	32.9	24.2	Shimla	—	24.6	13.2
Imphal	—	27.5	20.7	Srinagar	—	28.8	12.9
Jaipur	—	33.1	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	5	31.7	25.0
Kochi	—	31.0	26.4	Tiruchi	0.1	36.5	25.8
Kohima	—	35.2	16.5	Vijayawada	—	33.6	27.0
Kolkata	—	33.5	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.46	35	81	96	
Bengaluru	—	.22	98	49	52	
Chennai	.18	1	20	45	92	
Delhi	.13	.29	70	29	59	
Hyderabad	.43	.60	35	39	92	
Kolkata	4	.37	15	29	37	
Lucknow	.10	7	77	14	61	
Mumbai	8	.30	33	13	46	
Pune	.11	.30	20	98	63	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.34	12	54	73	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 169 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IAF helicopter makes precautionary landing in Kolar dist.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Chetak (Alouette Ill) helicopter of the Indian Air Force made a precautionary landing on a tank bund at Bangarpet in Kolar district on Sunday.

The helicopter which was on a routine training sortie from Chennai to Bengaluru met with a technical snag owing to which it was forced to make a precautionary landing there at around 4 p.m.

The helicopter which was on a routine training sortie from Chennai to Bengaluru met with a technical snag

"At 4 p.m. following a minor emergency an IAF chetak helicopter on a routine training sortie carried out a precautionary landing safely in an open area near Kolar,

All occupants are safe and the helicopter is secured on ground. The State local administration is providing full support. The helicopter is likely to be recovered on Monday morning after rectification," said a statement from the Ministry of Defence.

No injuries

The pilots did not suffer any injuries. Following the incident, local police and district administration authorities visited the spot.

Symbolic launch of Cauvery Aarti at Srirangapatna on Oct. 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka has decided to symbolically launch Cauvery Aarti on the lines of the Ganga Aarti, on October 3, on the first day of the the Dasara celebrations at Srirangapatna in Mandya.

The decision was taken following discussions with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar by a delegation of State Ministers and Congress legislators, led by Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, that visited Varanasi and Haridwar to study the manner in which the ceremony is performed on the banks of the Ganga.

"We have decided to symbolically conduct the Cauvery Aarti on October 3 at Srirangapatna. After the construction of permanent structures on the banks of the Cauvery, the aarti would be conducted at least five days a week," said Dinesh Guli Gowda, MLC, who was part of the delegation.

Search for location

Mr. Shivakumar told the delegation to submit a comprehensive report on conducting the Cauvery Aarti and its location, which would later transform into a site of religious and cultural tourism. The identified location should be such that it should have the flow of water in the river throughout the year, the MLC said.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the delegation to include distinctive features of all districts in the Cauvery basin in the report. The Cabinet is expected to take a decision on the release of funds for the construction of structures for conducting the aarti and the permanent location, Mr. Gowda said.

A couple of months ago, Mr. Shivakumar said the State government had proposed to conduct the Cauvery Aarti on the banks of the river which is the lifeline of the people in many parts of southern Karnataka.

Following his instruction, the delegation visited Haridwar and Varanasi on September 20 and 21 and watched the rituals conducted by priests during the Ganga Aarti. Close to 40,000 people attend the Ganga Aarti in Haridwar and Varanasi, the MLC said.

Mahisha Dasara held

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mahisha Mandalothsava or Mahisha Dasara was held at the Town Hall, in Mysuru on Sunday amidst tight security with additional police deployed at the venue to prevent untoward incidents.

Commissioner of Police Seema Latkar had clamped prohibitory orders under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita within the Mysuru City Police Commissionerate jurisdiction, including Chamundi Hills as a precautionary measure.

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.4000 Crore (Rs.2000 Crore - 03 Year Tenure and Rs.2000 Crore-06 Year Tenure)**
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort).
3. Date of auction : **October 01, 2024.**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non - competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non - competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/RO2231/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites TENDERS from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.						
1	North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1394/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	1	Rs. 19,42,413/- Rs. 48,600/-	14.10.2024 upto 3:00 pm	15.10.2024 after 4:00 pm
2		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1395/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	2	Rs. 15,07,380/- Rs. 37,700/-		
3		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1396/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	3	Rs. 14,52,974/- Rs. 36,400/-		
4		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1397/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024 (Reserved for SC category)	4	Rs. 17,30,614/- Rs. 21,700/-		
5		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1398/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024 (Reserved for SC category)	5	Rs.18,31,496/- Rs. 22,900/-		
6		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1399/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	6	Rs. 10,69,069/- Rs. 26,800/-		
7		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1400/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	7	Rs. 11,94,585/- Rs. 29,900/-		
8		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1401/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	8	Rs. 14,17,189/- Rs. 35,500/-		
9		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1402/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	9	Rs. 18,98,362/- Rs. 47,500/-		
10		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1403/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	10	Rs. 20,32,433/- Rs. 50,000/-		
11		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1404/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	11	Rs. 68,55,030/- Rs. 1,37,110/-		
12		BWSSB/ENTE/ AE-1/1405/ 2024-25, Dt:27.09.2024	12	Rs. 23,08,356/- Rs. 50,000/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)						
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.						
1	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2685/ 2024-25 , Dated: 26.09.2024	1	Rs. 69,76,023/- Rs. 1,40,000/-	16.10.2024 upto 4:00 pm	18.10.2024 after 4:30 pm
2		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2686/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024	2	Rs. 27,88,219/- Rs. 55,800/-		
3		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2687/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for SC category)	3	Rs. 29,77,702/- Rs. 29,800/-		
4		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2688/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024	4	Rs. 14,44,750/- Rs. 36,200/-		
5		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2689/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for ST category)	5	Rs. 66,14,530/- Rs. 66,200/-		
6		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2690/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024	6	Rs. 50,29,178/- Rs. 1,00,600/-		
7		BWSSB /EEW-1/PB/2691/ 2024-25, Dated: 26.09.2024	7	Rs. 75,21,713/- Rs. 1,00,600/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)						

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/2232/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1694/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.23,57,677/- Rs.50,000/-	15.10.2024 upto 5.00 pm	16.10.2024 after 5.30 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1696/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.38,31,675/- Rs.76,650/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1698/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.38,55,404/- Rs.77,200/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1700/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.32,43,123/- Rs.32,500/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1702/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.23,46,114/- Rs.25,000/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1704/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.50,00,863/- Rs.1,00,100/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1706/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.33,89,105/- Rs.33,900/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1708/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.56,37,449/- Rs.1,12,750/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1710/ 2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	Rs.31,90,029/- Rs.63,850/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)					
10	North-East	BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1994/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.32,72,731/- Rs.32,730/-	16.10.2024 upto 4.00 pm	19.10.2024 after 3.00 pm
11		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1996/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.30,49,461/- Rs.30,500/-		
12		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2002/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	Rs.31,38,930/- Rs.62,780/-		
13		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2004/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	Rs.25,97,322/- Rs.51,950/-		
14		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2007/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	Rs.34,96,970/- Rs.69,950/-		
15		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2009/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	Rs.20,18,250/- Rs.50,000/-		
16		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2011/ 2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	Rs.23,10,002/- Rs.50,000/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)					

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2255/AKAR/2024-25

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, D.V. KAVITHA, W/o Late B. Mailarappa R/a Quarters #1, Special Type IV, Ulsoor, 5A Kensington Road, Bangalore- 560008 declare that my daughter's Name is Khushi Kajol Devatha Omkar (DOB: 02.03.2011) in her Education records her Father's Name is wrongly recorded as P B MYLARAPPA instead of B MAILARAPPA vide affidavit dated 27.9.2024 before VI Addl Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD
R/FIRST APPEAL NO. 1162 of 2018
FIXED ON: 08/10/2024 District: Ahmedabad
MR. Aditya A Gupta Ld. Advocate for the Appellant
TUSHAR VEERENDERA SHAH
.....Appellant
Versus
AMBER FABRICS LTD. .....Respondent
1. AMBER FABRICS LTD. (Earlier Known As Boston Tecknowsys (i), Ltd) Having Its Address At: Plot No. 16, 1st Floor Srila Realty Layout, Madinaguda, Miyapur Serilingampally Mandal Hyderabad-500049

Take notice that the Appellant above-named having presented a **R/FIRST APPEAL NO. 1162 of 2018** to this High Court, challenging the Judgment and Order dated 19/01/2018 passed by the Judge, Court No. 12, City Civil Court, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad in Summary Civil Suit No. 5680 of 1996 and the same having been registered in this Court, on 10/04/2018.

Whereas upon hearing and allowing the in **R/FIRST APPEAL NO 1162 of 2018** the Honourable Court (CORAM: Honourable Mr. Justice Biren Vaishnav And Honourable Ms. Justice Nisha M. Thakore) had on 06/08/2024 ordered to issue Notice by way of Public Notice by publication in the Newspaper to Respondent No.1

Take NOTICE that the hearing of the said R/FIRST APPEAL NO. 1162 OF 2018 will take place on 08th day of October, 2024 at 11 AM peremptorily in this court and if no appearance is made on your behalf, your advocate or by someone authorised by law to act for you it will be heard and determined in your absence.

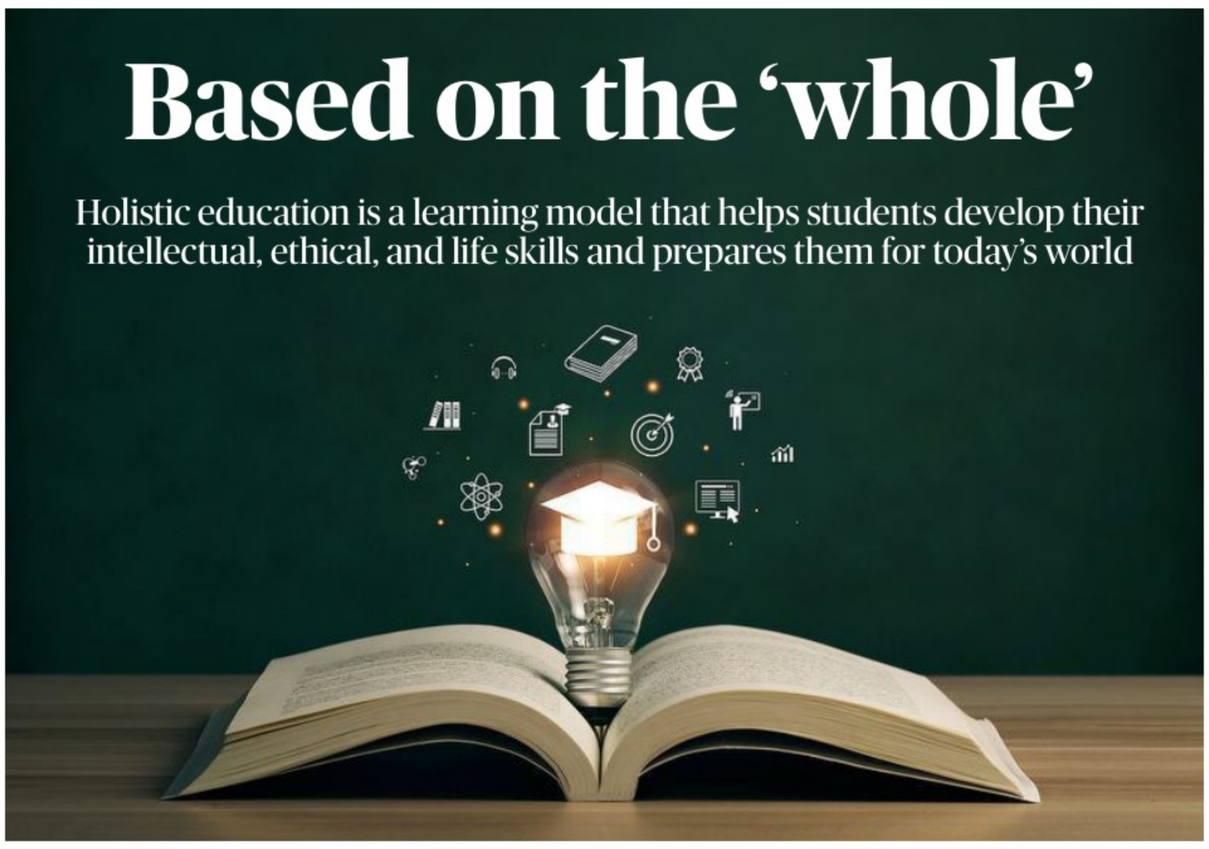
Witness, SUNITA AGARWAL, Esquire the Chief Justice at Ahmedabad aforesaid this **6th Day of August, 2024.**

By the Court
(K.M Sutariya) Assistant Registrar

EDUCATIONPLUS

Based on the 'whole'

Holistic education is a learning model that helps students develop their intellectual, ethical, and life skills and prepares them for today's world



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A. Joseph Dorairaj

Human beings are complex and composite wholes. This complexity can be addressed only by holistic education. Unfortunately, the kind of education imparted in most higher educational institutions is piece-meal and fragmented, with a preponderant focus on rationality. The emotional, spiritual, political and ecological dimensions are glossed over. This is a fallout of the Cartesian paradigm with its excessive emphasis on reason (*Cogito, ergo sum*).

Holism, which incorporates the idea of the 'whole', is at the roots of holistic education. The UNESCO document *Learning to Be: A Holistic and Integrated Approach to Values Education for Human Development* emphasises that "Education must contribute to the all-round development of each individual – mind and body, intelligence, sensitivity, aesthetic sense, personal responsibility and spiritual values". Holistic education emerged in the 1980s in North America as a reaction against the mechanistic paradigm that resulted in a fragmented, reductionist model of education that left out the meta-rational dimensions of life, among other issues. John P. Miller's book *The Holistic Curriculum* (1988) and Ron Miller's journal *Holistic Education Review*, launched in 1988, formally inaugurated the campaign for a holistic education in the West.

The primary benefits ot holistic education are: helping students develop into well-rounded individuals, interconnectedness, and a global citizenship with a multicultural outlook.

In *What Are Schools for? Holistic Education in American Culture,* Miller cautions, "Holistic education is *not* to be defined as a particular method or technique; it must be seen as a *paradigm*, a set of basic assumptions and principles that can be applied in diverse ways".

In other words, it is not just another concept or theory, but a way of thinking and living.

Design and implementation

Teachers have a crucial role to play in both the design and implementation of a holistic curriculum. They should ensure that it is multi-disciplinary with a fine balance of core papers and electives, especially those from across disciplines. Care should be taken to include art subjects for a science programme and conversely a couple of basic science subjects in an arts programme.

In addition to languages, a foundational course in Philosophy should be introduced so that students are trained to think critically. Second, teachers should promote experiential learning. There is no point in filling students' minds with information bytes that have no direct relevance to life. On the contrary, learning by doing not only stimulates the students but also makes learning fun-filled, inferential, and lasting.

Third, teachers should be both indoors and outdoors people. Traditional classrooms required teachers to operate within four walls. But a holistic curriculum will liberate them from these narrow confines by inviting them to accompany their students on field trips. In fact, they should occasionally shed their professorial garb and spend time with their students in the cafeteria doubling up as friends and mentors discussing literally everything under the sun. In other words, they should be connected to their students and be a beacon as the latter navigate life's narrow lanes and alleys.

Finally, a holistic curriculum demands re-defining of evaluation procedures, which should be designed to test students' thinking skills. In addition to subject knowledge, life skills should also be tested. Teachers should move away from the traditional roles ascribed to them and re-invent themselves as mentors and catalysts.

Benefits

Imparting a holistic education has many benefits. The primary ones are: helping students develop into well-rounded individuals, interconnectedness, and a global citizenship with a multicultural outlook.

Today, in a world torn asunder by religious, cultural, linguistic, caste and geographic sectarianism, a holistic education can serve as a balm.

Quite a few students are being reduced to intellectual monsters with poor emotional quotient. Many lack a strong ethical base as well. Holistic education can, to some extent, heal fragmentation and divisiveness by taking into account the head, the heart, and the soul, and the synergy that fuses the different elements into a composite whole.

Gandhi's views on holistic education are profound. He declared: "unless the development of the mind and body goes hand in hand with a corresponding awakening of the soul, the former alone would prove to be a poor lopsided affair" and added that "a proper and all-round development of the mind, therefore, can take place only when it proceeds *pari passu* with the education of the physical and spiritual faculties of the child" (*All Men Are Brothers*).

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Aligned to your goals

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I have a UG degree in Biochemistry and want to do an M.Sc. Medical Biochemistry in the U.S., the U.K. or Canada. But I don't want to take an English language test. Is there some other solution? If not, how can I prepare for the IELTS? Bavadharini

Dear Bavadharini,

Avoiding an English Language Test is rarely possible. Some universities may waive the requirement if you can submit a letter from your college confirming that English was the medium of instruction for your UG degree. Others offer pathway programmes or pre-sessional English courses that may exempt you from taking standardised English tests. A few offer conditional admission where you first enroll in an English language course and then proceed to your degree programme upon successful completion.

The IELTS has four sections: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Familiarise yourself with the format and types of questions in each.

Enrol in a coaching class that provides structured guidance and feedback. Listen to English podcasts, news, and lectures regularly; read a variety of English newspapers, journals and books and practice with IELTS listening and reading practice tests. Familiarise yourself with the IELTS writing tasks and .practice regularly. Speak in English with people and record yourself to evaluate and improve your pronunciation and fluency. Take practice tests to assess your progress and get used to the test timing.

I finished Mechanical Engineering in 2021. I have been taking the UPSC and other state service exams but have not cleared any. What are my options? Arjun

Dear Arjun,

Get a career profile done to identify your interest and passion and then work on enhancing your skills and certifications. Focus on specific development across technical areas relevant to your field (e.g., CAD/CAM software certification, Six Sigma certification), management and soft skills, as these will make you more job ready. Check out core Mechanical Engineering openings in the private sector across technical, sales, marketing, and operations and identify the prerequisites.

Explore research programmes that align with your career goals and opportunities for scholarships or financial aid.

Consider pursuing a Master's degree (M.Tech or MBA) to specialise in a specific area or to change career tracks once you are clear about the current market need/gap you want to fill.

Network and connect with professionals in your industries through LinkedIn, industry events, and alumni networks to gain insights and potential job leads.

My daughter finished the six-year Pharm. D. course in Bengaluru and worked in a start-up for 13 months. But she feels the job is that of a regular pharmacist (which requires only a diploma). What are the career prospects for Pharm.D? Satyanarayanas

Dear Satyanarayana,

She could be a clinical pharmacist in a hospital, clinic, or healthcare institution; a consultant pharmacist in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or home healthcare agencies; a pharmacovigilance specialist in a pharmaceutical company, a regulatory agency; a clinical research associate in a contract research organisations (CROs), pharmaceutical companies, academic research centres; a medical science liaison (MSL), who acts a bridge between pharmaceutical companies and healthcare providers, providing scientific and clinical expertise; or an academician or researcher in colleges, universities, and research institutions.

I have a B.E. in Computer Science. I have not cleared the UPSC exam in three attempts. I am out of touch with programming skills. I am interested in social service. How can I get jobs in NGOs or in schools? Deepanshu

Dear Deepanshu,

Given your background, you can consider jobs in NGOs under Technology and IT Support and provide technical support, manage IT infrastructure, and implement technology solutions for NGOs or as a Data Management Analyst where you might need to collect, analyse, and report data to support NGO programmes and initiatives.

Social media and digital marketing are sought-after today to manage social media platforms, create digital content, and run online campaigns for fundraising and awareness. You could also be a project coordinator and manager or programme development officer.

Jobs at schools depend on their need but you could look at being an IT support specialist, educational technology coordinator, and so on.

You will need to upgrade some of your current skill sets, brush up your concepts in areas relevant to the roles that you are interested in (e.g., IT skills, data analysis, project management) and get some new certifications if possible to be current and relevant.

Start by offering your skills as a volunteer in NGOs or schools to gain practical experience and demonstrate your commitment. Check job portals specific to NGOs (e.g., DevNetJobs, Idealist) or school websites for job openings.

Create a professional LinkedIn profile highlighting your skills and interests in social service and connect with professionals in NGOs and schools.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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Graphene: Shaping the Future of Skies and Security- Panel Discussion on Graphene Applications in Aerospace and Defence

NOBEL LAUREATE LEADS CUTTING-EDGE GRAPHENE DISCUSSION AT HITS

In a landmark event that brought together some of the brightest minds in materials science and aerospace, the Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS) hosted an exclusive panel discussion on "Graphene Applications in Aerospace and Defence" during its 15th convocation on September 14th. The event was headlined by Sir Andre Konstantin Geim, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist renowned for his co-discovery of graphene.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Anand Jacob Verghese, Chancellor of HITS, the university has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation and research excellence. This high-profile panel discussion serves as a testament to HITS' commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and attracting top-tier talent to its campus.

The distinguished panel featured a roster of experts from various fields, including Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director of IIT Ropar as the moderator, Col. (Hon.) Dr. S.N. Sridhara, Vice Chancellor of HITS; Dr. P.K. Jain, Distinguished Scientist and Associate Director of ARCI and Dr. Indrajit Shown, Professor, Department of Chemistry at HITS as panelists

Sir Andre Geim shared his invaluable insights on the future of graphene technology that has captured the imagination of scientists and industry leaders and revealed that graphene is already finding practical applications in various industries. "Graphene is already applied in solar panels, brain implants, painting ships, acid batteries, impact resistance in Formula 1 cars, to avoid lighting strikes in aeroplanes and more,"

In a key point of the discussion, Geim advised "Researchers should not look at only graphene but other two-dimensional materials that are like brothers and sisters of graphene".

Dr. P.K. Jain expounded on the use of graphene in promising areas including stealth technology due to its uniqueness including radar absorbing properties, conductivity and layered structure. Dr. Indrajit Shown expressed his interest in exploring how graphene can be combined with other materials to create storage devices for energy and Green Hydrogen products.

Talking about the multidisciplinary programs offered at HITS, Vice Chancellor Dr. S.N. Sridhara sought advice on how India can produce nobel laureates in science in the near future to which Sir Geim replied "Hard work and good education is the key. Without a good education and lot of luck you will just walk through discoveries without noticing it. They are both important for winning the Nobel prize"

"The straight path, it's very small chance you'll find something like a gold nugget in your research. If you jump around, in my opinion, it's much more fruitful to find something new." Sir Andre Konstantin Geim

Demand flux

Growth dynamics may falter with waning urban consumption

India's resounding 8.2% GDP growth in 2023-24 came with two worrying portents. The farm sector lost momentum due to an unhelpful monsoon, and private consumption spends rose at less than half the economy's pace. In fact, the 4% growth in private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) was the weakest since 2002-03, if one excludes 2020-21, when COVID-19 first hit the world. Of course, some of this stemmed from the farm sector's rain woes that weighed down rural demand, while economists flagged a K-shaped consumption pattern of higher-end goods and services seeing greater offtake than the rest. A normal monsoon this year, it was hoped, would help the farm sector and rural demand rebound, and shore up overall consumption to levels that spur growth as well as hasten an uptick in industrial capacity utilisation rates to thresholds that compel private investors to ramp up. This much-awaited outcome is vital for the virtuous cycle of more investments leading to more jobs and higher consumption to kick in.

Growth numbers for the first quarter suggested this story was playing out, with the PFCE rising at a seven-quarter high of 7.4%, outpacing the 6.8% GDP uptick. Rural demand signals such as two-wheeler sales also perked up. India Ratings reckons that real rural wage growth turned positive in July and is expected to stay positive, aided by cooling inflation. This bodes well for consumption. However, a twist in this tale may be imminent, with urban demand beginning to show some fatigue. Last Tuesday, S&P Global Ratings, which expects India to grow 6.8% this year (lower than the 7.2% rise penned in by the Reserve Bank of India), said high interest rates are tempering urban demand. The RBI's consumer confidence survey for July shows a turn in the tide, with current and future confidence levels of urban buyers dropping. The Finance Ministry has taken note too, pointing to a dip in passenger vehicle sales through April to August as a barometer of stuttering urban demand. The trend warrants monitoring, it said, while expressing hope that festive fervour could trigger a course reversal. With wallets crimped by persistently high food inflation (that also clouds rate cut hopes), the ability of urban Indians to create room for discretionary spends through the festive season and beyond would be critical for growth as well as the virtuous private investment cycle. With global oil prices turning benign, the Centre must consider passing through the reduced costs to consumers, and cut levies embedded into retail fuel prices. A substantive fuel price cut, as opposed to the token two rupees of relief per litre unveiled this March, can support demand in the economy.

Mad doctrine

Any threat of use of nuclear weapons must be viewed seriously

Russian President Vladimir Putin's revision of Russia's nuclear doctrine announced last week is a worrying increase in the war rhetoric surrounding the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It would once have been considered unthinkable for permanent members of the UN Security Council to behave in this manner. His announcement was that in the event of a conventional attack on Russia by any country that is supported by a nuclear power, Russia would consider that a "joint attack" and presumably, deal with the threat accordingly. He added that Russia could use nuclear weapons in response to a conventional attack posing a "critical threat to [its] sovereignty", a threat that was repeated by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the UN General Assembly meet over the weekend, when he said the idea of defeating Russia on the battlefield is "senseless" and a "suicidal escapade" given that Moscow has nuclear weapons. Clearly, the context of Mr. Putin's nuclear doctrine revision and the comments is Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to the United States, where he attempted to present a new "victory plan" for Ukraine. Mr. Zelenskyy wants the permission of the U.S. and other western countries to use missiles and other heavy weaponry procured from them for attacks deep inside Russia. Thus far, the weaponry, including Storm Shadow and ATACMS missiles, can only be used for Ukraine's defence, although western capitals turned a blind eye when Ukrainian forces invaded the Russian Oblast of Kursk in August with tanks and weaponry, allowing Mr. Zelenskyy to rack up a symbolic win and possibly some leverage in future negotiations for peace. However, much of the euphoria in Kyiv has since dissipated with Russia hitting back anew, sending in troops to Kursk, and also opening a new front around Ukraine's Pokrovsk, and western countries remaining loathe to enter the theatre of war. To that end, U.S. President Joseph Biden has now announced nearly $8 billion in additional military aid for Ukraine, but made no reference to the demand for its utilisation inside Russia.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Putin will be assuaged, or if concerns about the war reaching a "nuclear threshold" will grow from this point on, and it is hoped countries, including India, that have committed to finding a path to dialogue and peace, redouble their efforts to prevent such a catastrophe. New Delhi has said that it "conveyed messages" to Moscow when safety concerns grew over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may be called on to do the same when he visits Russia in October for the BRICS summit. As the world grapples with the spectre of escalation in West Asia, the last thing it needs is a reversion to chilling cold war scenarios in Eurasia, of mutually assured destruction.

Plain-speak on the AKD phenomenon in Sri Lanka

Gopalkrishna Gandhi

a former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka

Setting all family-based traditions of political domination to a side, the election of the 'relatively unknown' 55-year-old Anura Kumar Dissanayake (AKD) of the JVP (People's Liberation Front)-led NPP (National People's Power), as Sri Lanka's President comes as a true serendipitous surprise. He is that – relatively unknown – in more senses than one. Though 'around' for decades in Sri Lanka politics as a Marxist politician schooled in the radical Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna (JVP), and a cabinet Minister (2004-05) in Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's coalition government, AKD has swum below the radars of most Lanka-watchers. But he is 'relatively unknown' also in the important sense (important all over South Asia but particularly so in Sri Lanka) of being 'unknown as a relative' or kin descended from a political family.

Of all early analyses that I have come across of AKD's dramatic victory, the most insightful is one from an acute observer of Lankan affairs from the perch of Tamil Lanka but not a 'standard political columnist', Sivanandini Duraiswamy. The Jaffna-based littérateur who is, whether or not so in a formal sense, a sociologist, sums up the scene in a note that is a nugget of fact and comment: "The mandate if any was against what Mao Ze Dong termed 'the decadence of the state, the sufferings of humanity and the darkness of society'. It was in reaction to International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity and the extravagant recklessness of the Colombo elite. It represented a paradigm shift where a monolingual outsider who belonged to a party that rose in revolt twice in 1971 and in 1987-89 [resulting in the deaths of 80,000 Sinhalese youth] is now at the helm. Further, AKD is not from the dominant Sinhalese Govigama caste from which all 15 Heads of Government, except one, belonged to in our 75-year post-independence history. That is itself a significant achievement. He is likeable, self-made and charismatic."

Having given AKD his rightful due, she goes on to explain some of the interstices of the AKD phenomenon. Chief among these, in my re-telling of those with my added observations, are the following:

The vote and challenges

AKD's dramatic win must be seen with the hard realities he must face. Foremost of these is plainly political: If 42% of the electorate has voted for him, 58% voted for others in a scattered way but decisively against him. This large non-AKD if not anti-AKD majority comprises the huge chunk of Sinhala majority voters who voted in 'old UNP' style for the two former 'UNPer's the second-in-the-race, Sajith Premadasa, son of the late Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Ranil Wickremesinghe, taken together. This AKD-negative chunk includes also, almost the entirety of the Tamil electorate in the nation's 10 non-Sinhala majority districts in the north, east and the central highlands.

This means that AKD has to not just consolidate his own Left-inclined and Left-supporting Sinhala support base but seek support from non-Left Sinhala and Tamil Lanka as well. If AKD is to form a stable government he has to do so with his own JVP and NPP MPs and others. The most logical and, in Sri Lanka, the tried-and-tested way of doing this would be through the coalition path. Or through 'outside support' – ever tenuous.

The next biggest challenge is financial. AKD has to meld his tare of past ideological positions with the hard reality of Sri Lanka's dependence on IMF funding. How he will be able to convince his support base – his 'bread and butter' – about the inevitability of the self-denying austerity regimen that comes as the price for IMF funding, remains to be seen. If Ranil Wickremesinghe was judged and judged out in under two years, AKD will have a tighter calendar to work within. If Sri Lanka's polity is a minefield, its political economy is an all-but dry lake. Early reports suggest that AKD will negotiate, not scrap, the Ranil government's convergences with the IMF. If AKD holds deliberations with the outgoing President's economic team, that could lead to calibrated increments in decision making. Ranil Wickremesinghe may have made political misjudgements, especially in his more-than-generous handling of the Rajapaksa order. But his grasp of economic affairs is not a resource to be lightly disregarded.

The third and from India's point of view, a very serious challenge to AKD's Leftward mindscape is the ideological voltage which will be directed to it from China. Even if one were to disregard the speculation about China having played a financial role in AKD's election campaign, one cannot be over-cautious about Beijing's reflexive leverage over any government in Colombo. Within touching adjacency to India, the emerald isle shares with its immediate neighbour all the frictions proximity brings. Sri Lanka's distant but deep oceanic heave with China is without the frictions that proximity brings. If IMF funding spells uneasy austerities in the short term, Chinese support cannot but script risky promissory notes in the long term.

> The election result in Sri Lanka must be viewed by India as faith in the self-renewing power of the democratic voice

Renewal of the democratic voice

AKD cannot do better than remember a defining question that the great Lankan Marxist asked of those pressing for 'Sinhala only' politics in Parliament in 1956. "Do you want two languages and one nation, or one language and two nations?" On how AKD navigates the language and religious fissures of his country depends on the veracity and validity of his leadership. In this the experience of Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge in proposing federal and devolution principles to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and other Tamil political formations can be instructive for him. Let me say, with welcome admiration, that I found this statement of AKD's at his inauguration nothing less than redemptive: "Democracy helped me win. Some voted for me, and others didn't. But my pledge is to work hard to win the trust of those who didn't vote for me as well."

In her note dated September 24, 2024, Sivanandini Duraiswamy gives the optically gratifying and synoptically telling news that "(AKD) took a needed first step. He visited a Hindu Temple in Kandy today to receive a rapturous welcome." Bravo, is what I would say to that, bravo AKD.

An outstanding former Indian diplomat, Ramu Damodaran, recently drew my attention to a new play, 'Counting and Cracking' by Lankan playwright S. Shakthidharan which is said to be currently 'dazzling' New York audiences. Anand Giridharadas, founder editor of The.Ink online journal, has interviewed Shakthidharan, where he says: "I think the best way to strengthen democracy after realizing how fragile it is – rather than being terrified by that – is to listen deeply to the truths of people who are different to us and to find ways to agree to disagree."

Scepticism in the shape of hard-knocked realism marks India's general attitude to its neighbours. But at this point of time, India needs to view the AKD phenomenon with faith in the self-renewing power of the democratic voice. The internal gravitas of the AKD-led government will necessarily have to be ideological, its external outreach will need to be empirical. But its link with India, which has internal and external dimensions will have to be what they have always been and will always be: umbilical.

Common Practice Standards must have India outlook

Sayanta Ghosh

Associate Fellow, Land Resources, The Energy and Resources Institute

Jitendra Vir Sharma

Senior Director, Land Resources, The Energy and Resources Institute

India's vast potential in the agroforestry sector is a unique opportunity to integrate with carbon finance projects through Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) initiatives. There is a possibility to expand the area under agroforestry from the current 28.4 million hectares to 53 million hectares by 2050. Agroforestry accounts for 8.65%of India's total land area and contributes 19.3% of the country's carbon stocks. Thus, agroforestry plays a significant role in environmental sustainability and economic development.

Recent research suggests that if adequate policies, financial support, and incentives are implemented, the sector could contribute an additional carbon sink of over 2.5 billion tons of CO_2 equivalent by 2030.

'Common Practice' in Carbon Standards

In the realm of carbon finance, "common practice" is a key criterion used to assess whether a project is additional – meaning, it goes beyond what is typically done in a given region. For ARR projects, this involves determining whether similar activities are commonly practised without the financial incentives provided by carbon credits. According to carbon standards such as Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) or the Gold Standard, if an activity is deemed "common practice", it may not qualify for carbon credits, as it is not seen as contributing additional environmental benefits beyond the norm.

However, the current definition of common practice in global carbon standards often reflects the realities of large-scale agricultural practices found in regions such as Latin America, Africa, or the United States, where landholdings are extensive and contiguous. In contrast, India is characterised by small and fragmented landholdings. Recent data indicate that 86.1% of Indian farmers are small and marginal, with landholdings of less than two hectares. These farmers often engage in agroforestry in a non-systematic, scattered manner, planting trees alongside crops or on small patches of fallow land.

> International carbon finance platforms must revise their standards to better align with the realities of Indian agriculture

While beneficial, these practices may not meet the additionality criteria set by current carbon standards because they are perceived as "common" within the Indian context. This presents a significant challenge, as it effectively excludes a large number of Indian farmers from participating in ARR carbon finance projects, thereby denying them the opportunity to earn additional income from carbon credits.

Need for India-centric approaches

Given India's unique agricultural landscape, there is an urgent need to redefine and consider the common practice criterion to better reflect the specific challenges and opportunities within the Indian agroforestry sector. An India-centric approach would recognise that even small, incremental changes in land management practices such as adopting more systematic agroforestry techniques or utilising carbon finance to maintain tree cover can be transformative.

Revising and consideration of the common practice standards to accommodate the fragmented, small-holder model prevalent in India would unlock the vast potential for carbon sequestration. This would enable a greater number of farmers to participate in carbon finance projects, providing them with additional income streams while contributing to India's climate goals. Further, by acknowledging the fragmented nature of Indian agriculture, carbon credit platforms could design incentives that encourage systematic agroforestry, thereby enhancing both environmental sustainability and rural livelihoods.

Agroforestry, when integrated with ARR initiatives, offers a viable solution to the various challenges faced by India's agricultural sector. By promoting alternative livelihoods and providing additional income streams for farmers, these projects can help address issues such as low productivity, dependence on monsoons, and environmental degradation. The carbon finance provided by ARR projects enables a more systematic and sustained approach to agroforestry, which would otherwise be difficult to achieve given the financial pressures and market constraints faced by many Indian farmers. For farmers grappling with unpredictable weather patterns and fluctuating crop yields, participating in ARR projects presents a pathway to income diversification. By integrating trees into their agricultural landscapes or restoring degraded forest areas on their land, farmers can tap into additional revenue streams through carbon sequestration. Beyond economic gains, ARR projects deliver crucial environmental benefits, such as enhancing soil fertility, improving water retention, and mitigating erosion, thereby bolstering agricultural productivity and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Help small and marginal farmers

Research institutes such as The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have already demonstrated the potential of ARR projects in India, spearheading 19 projects across seven States, benefiting over 56,600 farmers. However, for such initiatives to scale up, it is imperative that international carbon finance platforms revise their standards to better align with the realities of Indian agriculture.

As India looks to expand its agroforestry sector and leverage the benefits of carbon finance it is crucial that international standards evolve to reflect the specific conditions of the Indian subcontinent. Revising the "Common Practice" guidelines to be more inclusive of Indian agroforestry practices will enable millions of small and marginal farmers to participate in ARR projects. This would not only drive sustainable development but also provide a much-needed boost to the incomes of millions of rural households, ultimately contributing to the overall economic and environmental resilience of the country.

It is imperative that carbon credit platforms such as Verra and Gold Standard recognise the need for India-centric standards. Only then can the full potential of agroforestry and ARR initiatives be realised, paving the way for a greener, more sustainable, and economically prosperous future for India's farmers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A word of advice

Pakistan has made its speeches in the United Nations take the form of a ritualistic spewing of venom against India, even as it continues to practise its undeclared state policy of abetting cross-border terrorism to create disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir and across the rest of India (Page 1, September 29). Instead of spending its energies on nurturing terrorism on its soil and fulminating against India at international fora, it should concentrate its energies on setting right its economy, which is in a shambles. Pakistan must realise the futility of nurturing cross-border terrorism, so that a peaceful and conducive atmosphere prevails for the normalisation of ties with India. It will also usher peace in South Asia.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Son rise

It is amusing that many politicians who hail from political families in India swear by the Constitution and pose as the champions of democracy while unabashedly promoting dynastic politics. ("Udhayanidhi is Deputy CM; Senthilbalaji back in Cabinet", September 29). Strangely, the public takes such hypocrisy for granted. Is there an unconscious yearning for kings and maharajas in the Indian psyche?

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

Antibiotics use

The inappropriate use of antibiotics and the unrestricted over-the-counter sale of antibiotics has led to increased antimicrobial resistance ('Science' page, "Can Kerala's policy to limit antibiotics misuse reduce AMR?", September 29). Antimicrobial resistance is one of the top public health and global threats, putting many of the gains of modern medicine at risk. Kerala became the first State to ban over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without a prescription, but much needs to be done in terms of regulation and the antibiotic policy to prevent the deaths due to AMR.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Mark of an era

In the passing of 108-year-old Pappammal on September 27, India has lost a pioneer in the field of agriculture. The centenarian Tamil Nadu-based farmer's life was a testament to the power of passion in agriculture, and it is unimaginable that a woman could toil in this tough and unpredictable field every day even at that ripe age.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Bridging the chasm of global inequality

The Summit of the Future raises a set of fundamental questions on global governance: should the focus be on great power competition or continuing imbalance in the institutions, agenda setting, and global inequality? The former looks at the means and not the ends with a continuing debate on the meaning of justice.

Global goals do not resolve challenges; they support new forms of cooperation. The Summit resulted in a Global Digital Impact initiative and a Declaration on Future Generations, an inspirational call for national action. The concrete impact is an International Scientific Panel and a Global Dialogue on AI. An implementation map and intergovernmental consultations mirror how climate change came onto the global agenda 30 years ago. Climate change is now relegated to scaling up adaptation finance, and GDP will include sustainability. Developed countries continue to have the capacity to shape the global agenda.

The Summit did not agree to a clear pathway for Security Council reform and has called for categories of members. Reform of governance of global financial institutions is limited to a pledge to give developing countries a greater say in decision making and review of sovereign debt has been reiterated. Concerns of developing countries have got a short shift.

The problem here is one of definitions. Should the G-7, which continues to set the global agenda, be described as a club of victors of the Second World War or a group of former colonial powers? The U.S. established the G-7 in 1973 to set the global agenda in the United Nations (UN) as an anti-developing country body. The clash between Western capitalism and Soviet communism provided the former colonies who became the world's poor more space and voice. While the world's political geography was reshaped, the 'poor' remained trapped at the bottom of the economic and geopolitical hierarchy. The imbalance in the wider world is reflected in the UN.

Mukul Sanwal

served as policy adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP and later to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and was closely associated with Inter-Agency Relations in the Chief Executives Board of the UN

For example, recent figures from the UN show that only 17% of the Sustainable Development Goals are on track. Developing countries hold $29 trillion in public debt, with $847 billion in net interest payments, and experienced a negative net resource transfer in 2022. In July, the first joint declaration by G-20 finance leaders on international tax cooperation ended with disagreement over whether the UN or the OECD is the right forum to advance the agenda.

Real change began with the re-emergence of China and India and their BRICS grouping, in 2009, but it still awaits the reversal of colonial imbalances in key areas. In 1950, the U.S. used 40% of the world's natural resources having hegemonic power to set up multilateralism in a unilateral manner. With the reconstruction of Europe by 1970, their share had come down to 26%. Multilateralism evolved into treaties, having the authority to impact national policies. The G-7 share decreased to one-fifth in 2010, when Asia used half of global resource use. In a more equal world, the interests of the Global South gained a voice but not the ability to set the agenda. South Africa in 2023 had to file a case to determine obligations under the climate regime and this is a severe indictment of conference diplomacy.

Foundations of power

The foundations of power will remain with the West for a few decades even as the global trend is in favour of the Global South. In 1800, Asia consumed more energy than the rest of the world. In 1850, it consumed as much energy as the West. In 1950, the West's consumption was three times the rest of the world. In 2000, the West consumed as much energy as the rest of the world. The imbalance in the sphere of technology and endogenous capacity is even more severe with China and India as outliers becoming global leaders only in certain areas. The trend is towards a more equal world in all its dimensions. In 2000, 4.6 billion people lived in countries whose combined GDP was just 20% of the 755 million people who lived in the G-7. By 2016, the GDP share of 17 developing countries as a percentage of the G-7 countries tripled to 63%. The Summit accepts this imbalance but focuses on how progress is measured rather than on measures to bridge the gaps.

The Summit recognises that GDP focuses on the economic performance of societies but seeks to link it to sustainability. A broader understanding of prosperity considers non-monetary factors such as infrastructure, municipal services, affordable energy, educational opportunities, health care, and access to drinking water that better represent the urban living standards in a country. A focus on comparable levels of well-being is overdue.

The big lesson from the Summit is that developing countries have yet to exploit the opportunities presented by the UN system. While the international political process is open in procedural terms, it has been informed by consensual science developed by 'official experts', and this will be the case for global governance of Artificial intelligence (AI) and modification of GDP. Experts frame issues in a manner that determines the "problem" and how it should be "resolved".

As global power shifts back to Asia, both giants are conscious that their ideas are different from the dominant view espoused by the West on how societies work, change, and can be influenced. In a nod to geopolitics, Asia needs to be involved more deeply from the very beginning in expert bodies on AI and GDP to shape global governance by defining global priorities, cooperation, and justice.

The big lesson from the Summit is that developing countries have yet to exploit the opportunities presented by the UN system

Cash transfers in A.P.: lifeline with gaps

Government must ensure that cash transfers reach all marginalised populations

STATE OF PLAY

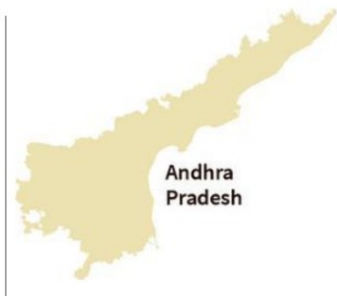
Diego Maiorano
Upasak Das
Chakradhar Buddha

In Andhra Pradesh, the current and previous regimes have relied heavily on cash transfers to support vulnerable citizens. These transfers reflect a global trend favouring direct cash assistance over traditional aid, based on the belief that recipients can meet their needs more effectively. However, while the State's cash transfer schemes, such as YSR Rythu Bharosa (RB) and Jagananna Amma Vodi (AMV), are ambitious, our recent study shows that these programmes are not reaching many of those they seek to help, particularly in tribal communities.

Unlike in-kind support, which involves complex supply chains, cash transfers deliver funds directly to beneficiaries, allowing them to make their own choices. In Andhra Pradesh, cash transfers form the backbone of the government's welfare agenda, providing financial aid across various sectors. Between 2019 and 2024, the government claims to have spent nearly two lakh crores in cash transfer schemes.

The RB scheme, launched in 2019, provides annual financial assistance of ₹13,500 to farmer families. Meanwhile, the AMV programme offers ₹15,000 per year to mothers or guardians of school-going children.

However, our December 2022 survey of over 1,100 households in the Integrated Tribal Development Agency regions of the State revealed that approximately 24% of eligible RB beneficiaries and 15% of AMV beneficiaries did not receive any benefits. These figures are particularly alarming as they highlight a failure to reach the most vulnerable.



Administrative and technical barriers largely account for these exclusions. Our research identified issues like unlinked Aadhaar numbers, errors in bank account mapping, and unresolved technical glitches. Discrepancies in land records, such as swapped village names, led to payment denials for eligible farmers. The bureaucratic challenges in resolving these issues are often overwhelming, especially for those with limited literacy and access to support.

Research by Silvia Masiero and Chakradhar Buddha on the RB scheme highlights three main issues. Many beneficiaries remain unaware of their exclusion, and grievance redress mechanisms are often ineffective. The design flaws block access to subsidies. Informational barriers occur when beneficiaries are not informed about benefit denials or solutions. Structural challenges, including difficulties in updating incorrect records, exacerbate exclusions. These issues underscore the need for more inclusive welfare systems.

The poorest are often excluded due to glitches and complex error-resolution processes. For tribal communities, especially women, accessing help is even harder due to long travel times and cultural biases in public services.

These challenges raise fundamental questions about the effectiveness of digital infrastructure in delivering welfare. The technological shift has increased the burden on already strained administrative systems and the most vulnerable beneficiaries, for whom "a glitch" can mean missing vital financial help. Instead of simplifying, digital public infrastructure has, in some cases, added layers of complexity.

To address this, the government needs to go beyond the current digital-first approach. A concerted effort is necessary to simplify administrative procedures, enhance ground-level support services, and improve outreach to raise awareness of eligibility criteria and enrollment processes. Investing in local help centres, deploying more mobile support teams, and offering guidance in local languages can bridge the accessibility gap.

The lessons are clear, technology can make welfare delivery easier for the administration, but it cannot substitute the need for transparent, human-centred support systems. Information gaps, such as unclear reasons for benefit exclusions and ineffective grievance redressal mechanisms, must be addressed to ensure these programmes truly reach and uplift the marginalised. The State must ensure that the promise of cash transfers does not end at the click of a button but reaches every eligible beneficiary. Only then can these ambitious welfare programmes become effective lifelines for the poor.

Diego Maiorano is Associate Professor at the University of Naples L'Orientale

Upasak Das is Senior Lecturer at the Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester

Chakradhar Buddha is Senior Researcher affiliated with LibTech India

What has Make in India achieved?

Ten years later, manufacturing growth has slowed to 5.5%, its GDP share remains stagnant at 15-17%, and employment in the sector has decreased

DATA POINT

R. Nagaraj

On September 25, 2014, the newly elected Union government initiated the Make in India (MI) policy with two objectives: (i) to raise the manufacturing sector's share in GDP to 25% (from 14%-15%), and (ii) to create 100 million additional industrial jobs (from about 60 million) by 2025. The policy was similar to the New Manufacturing Policy 2012, formulated but not implemented. The policy context: though India's annual real (net of inflation) GDP growth rate had accelerated to 7%-8% during the previous decade with rising export share, especially during 2003-08, manufacturing sector performance was modest, with increasing net imports and modest employment expansion.

Ten years on, what are the policy outcomes? According to the National Accounts Statistics (NAS), the manufacturing real gross value added (GVA) growth rate has slowed down from 8.1 during 2001-12 to 5.5% during 2012-23 **(Chart 1)**. The sector's GDP share has stagnated at 15%-17% over the last three decades, though it is slightly higher in the latest GDP series due to methodological changes **(Chart 2)**.

As per the NSSO sample surveys, manufacturing employment has declined from 12.6% in 2011-12 to 11.4% in 2022-23. Unorganised or informal sector manufacturing accounts for most employment, declining by 8.2 million, from 38.8 million in 2015-16 to 30.6 million by 2022-23, as per surveys of unincorporated sector enterprises. Agriculture's share in the workforce increased from 42.5% in 2018-19 to 45.8% in 2022-23 **(Chart 3)**.

The preceding reversal of structural transformation from a higher to a lower productivity sector is unprecedented in post-independent India. It is the clearest sign yet of premature de-industrialisation, that is, before attaining industrial maturity as in the advanced countries.

Why is India deindustrialising? Why did industrial production growth plummet despite the official real GDP growth rate of 6%-7% annually? Fixed investment growth practically collapsed. **Chart 4** shows the annual growth rate in GVA and gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) from 2012-13 to 2019-20 as per National Accounts Statistics (NAS) and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). We focus on time-tested ASI figures as the NAS figures are overestimated due to methodological problems. The industrial output growth rate is much lower than the official NAS-based estimates. The GFCF growth rate during the period is practically zero. Unsurprisingly, booming imports, mainly from China, have met the demand **(Chart 5)**.

Why did not domestic investments grow under MI, despite India's rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index, improving from 142 in 2014-15 to 63 in 2019-20? Because EDB is a bogus, politically motivated index with little analytical or empirical foundations. With hindsight, the government squandered away six precious years chasing a dubious index.

The key to reversing de-industrialisation is re-imagining industrial policy to align trade and industrial policies to promote domestic value addition and learning. Protection policies must promote securing a dynamic comparative advantage, not offer cash subsidies to gain a static comparative advantage. India must aim at investment-led growth and technological catching up. They must be supported by domestic R&D to promote adaptive research and the indigenisation of imported technology. Publicly funded development finance institutions or "policy banks" are needed to provide affordable long-term credit for socialising the risks of learning and catching up with the technological frontier.

Make in India report card

The data for the charts were sourced from National Accounts Statistics, National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Annual Survey of Industries, and Periodic Labour Force Surveys

Chart 1 | Manufacturing sector GVA growth rate at constant prices

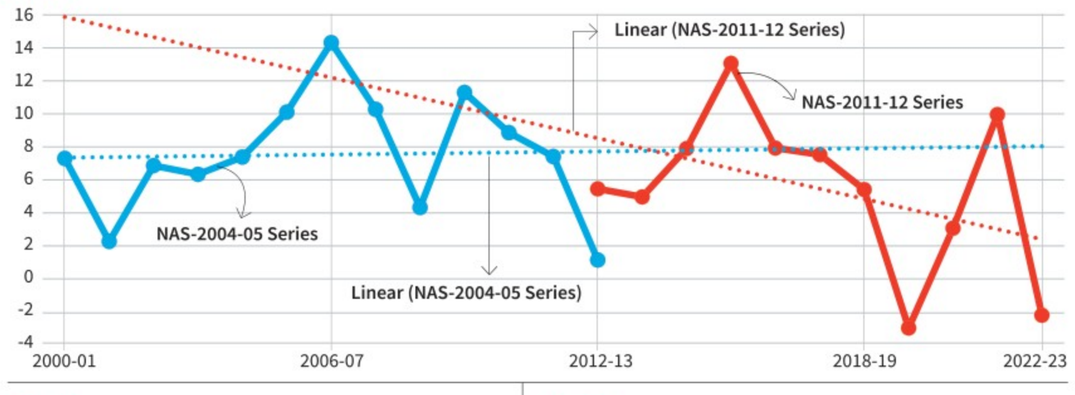


Chart 2 | The chart shows the manufacturing (MFG) sector's share in GDP at constant prices (1991-2023)

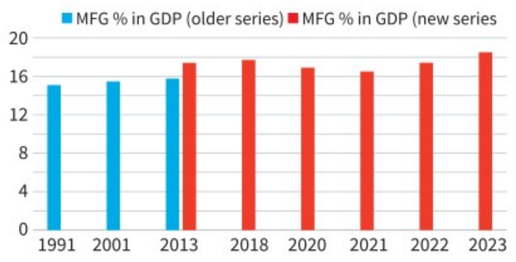


Chart 3 | The chart shows the shares of agriculture and manufacturing in total employment (1994-2023)

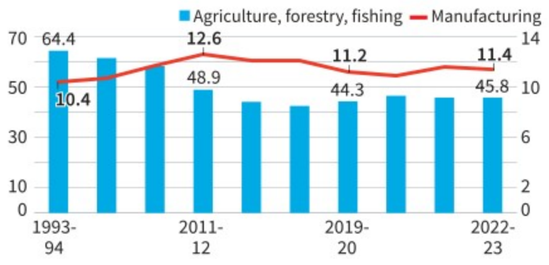


Chart 4 | The chart shows average growth rates of GVA and GFCF (2012-13 to 2019-20)

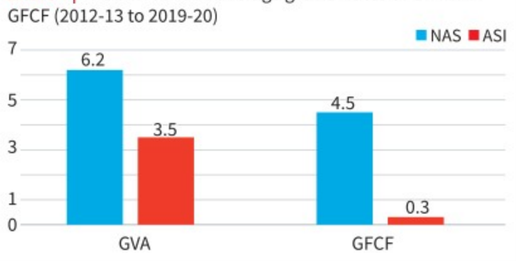
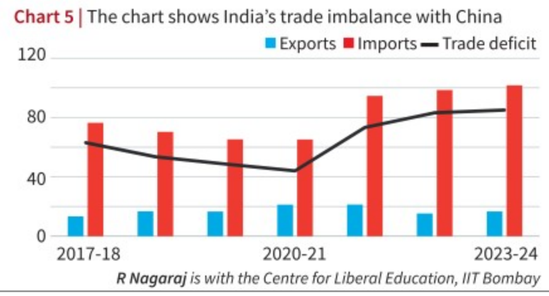


Chart 5 | The chart shows India's trade imbalance with China



R Nagaraj is with the Centre for Liberal Education, IIT Bombay

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1974

HMT Sales to go up in three years

NEW DELHI, Sept. 29: The Hindustan Machine Tools Limited would increase its turnover from Rs. 43 crores to Rs. 100 crores in the next three years when it completes its expansion and diversification programme, Dr. S. M. Patil, Chairman of the Company, told a press conference here today.

Dr. Patil said this would however push up the capital outlay of the company to Rs. 100 crores from about Rs. 70 crores at present.

Dr. Patil said the recognition that HMT had won in the sophisticated international machine tool markets could be seen from the agreement it had signed last year with Kearney and Trecker Marvin of U.K. under which it would supply the basic machines for the numerical controls for sale abroad. HMT would gradually take on more and more of the numerical controls part of the work to make the entire product in India. HMT had already secured orders worth £1.5 millions (Rs. 2.8 crores) for the next three years.

HMT also signed another agreement with Machine Tool Works Buchrle and Co. Oerlikon, Switzerland, for the export of engineering documentation and equipment to the Swiss company and the contract was worth 4.5 million Swiss francs (Rs. 2.8 crores).

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1924

Madras Scavengers' Union.

The Madras Corporation and City Scavengers' Union has represented, by the Corporation Health Officer, the grievances of the scavengers and the great hardships they are subject to for consideration and remedy. Some of the grievances are thus: (1) the scavengers are not given 15 days' leave on full pay as they are entitled to; (2) that they are overworked as Night Soil Depot coolies in digging grounds; (3) the night drivers who work hard the whole night are required to present themselves at 8:30 a.m. to answer the Muster Roll call, to work till 12 noon and again turn up at 4 p.m. and work till 6 p.m. and run up again for night duty, wages being paid for work in the nights only; (4) that the men should be paid their monthly wages not later than the 5th of every month; and (5) that the motor lorry coolies who work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. without any rest every day should be given at least a half holiday on Saturdays.

From Page One

2 Hezbollah leaders dead in Israel strike

Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes in Lebanon by the latest strikes. The government estimates that around 2,50,000 are in shelters, with three to four times as many staying with friends or relatives, or camping out on the streets, Environment Minister Nasser Yassin told The Associated Press.

Hezbollah has continued to fire rockets and missiles into northern Israel, but most have been intercepted or fallen in open areas. No Israelis have been killed since the latest wave of strikes on top Hezbollah leaders began on September 20.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies that consider themselves part of an Iran-backed "Axis of Resistance" against Israel.

Israel has responded with waves of airstrikes, and the conflict has steadily ratcheted up to the brink of all-out war, raising fears of a region-wide conflagration.

Israel says it is determined to return some 60,000 of its citizens to communities in the north that were evacuated nearly a year ago. Hezbollah has said it will only halt its rocket fire if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which has proven elusive despite months of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas led by the United States, Qatar and Egypt.

2 abducted Manipur youth seek CM's help

On Saturday, locals in Thoubal formed a Joint Action Committee and met senior district administration officials and demanded action to trace and rescue the two youth in captivity.

The ethnic conflict between Meiteis and Kukis, which broke out on May 3, 2023, has left more than 240 people dead and about 60,000 others displaced, many in relief camps.

92% of sewer cleaners from SC, ST, OBC groups

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs estimates that there are 100 core sanitation workers for an urban population of five lakh. Based on this, the government used decadal growth rates to estimate that as of 2021, there are likely to be one lakh sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) employed by India's 4,800 ULBs. The NAMASTE programme intends to profile all SSWs across the country to create a central database.

State efforts

Twelve States and UTs, including Kerala, Rajasthan, and Jammu and Kashmir, have completed the profiling process, while the exercise is still under way in 17 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, and West Bengal are among the States that have yet to begin the profiling process. Tamil Nadu and Odisha are running their own programmes for SSWs, and are not reporting data to the Centre under this programme.

States such as Kerala and Karnataka are holding information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns to profile workers at special camps. In Andhra Pradesh, ULBs are visiting workers' homes and workplaces to profile them, with State data showing that around 30% of their profiling was done this way.

By the end of the 2023-24 financial year, 31,999 SSWs had been validated, the Ministry's annual report said. Capital subsidies amounting to ₹2.26 crore have been given to 191 beneficiaries and their dependants for alternative self-employment projects, while 413 sanitation workers and dependants have received capital subsidies of ₹10.6 crore for sanitation-related projects, the report said.

Under the previous SRMS scheme, the government had identified 58,098 manual scavengers till 2018. Since then, it has insisted that no other manual scavengers have been identified, claiming that none of the 6,500-plus complaints reporting manual scavenging could be verified.

Of the identified manual scavengers, the government said it had data on the social categories of 43,797, showing that 97.2% of them were from SC communities. The share of STs, OBCs, and others were each around 1%.

17 T.N. fishermen held by Sri Lankan Navy

The Hindu Bureau
RAMESWARAM

As many as 17 fishermen, from Thangachimadam near Rameswaram, were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing near the Neduntheevu island in the early hours of Sunday. They had set sail on two boats on Saturday. According to police sources, the registered boats, belonging to P. Selvam and S. Uyirtharaj, of Thangachimadam, had set out from the fish landing centre at Rameswaram. There were eight fishermen on one boat and nine on the other.

When they were fishing near Neduntheevu, a Sri Lankan naval patrol ship apprehended them around 3.30 a.m.

'CPI(M) has always stridently opposed RSS, other Hindutva forces in Kerala'

The Kerala Chief Minister says the CPI(M) will examine the Lok Sabha election results in the State; he says that it is for the party to decide if he should step down before the next Assembly election, and that the next general secretary of the CPI(M) will be picked according to the laid-down procedures

INTERVIEW

Pinarayi Vijayan

Sobhana K. Nair

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is in Delhi to attend the Central Committee meeting of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), rejects allegations that the party has not effectively countered Hindutva politics in the State and has been "soft on the RSS". He also spoke on various issues. Edited excerpts:

A review of the 2024 general election by the CPI(M)'s Central Committee noted "erosion" in the party's "traditional base in several constituencies to the BJP" and also found that the party did not pay sufficient attention to counter "Hindutva politics", which resulted in the CPI(M) yet again being limited to only one seat. Your comment.

I don't think that is what the review said. It is not correct to say that CPI(M) in Kerala did not effectively counter Hindutva politics. It is a fact that BJP's vote share has increased. We are seriously introspecting the results and looking for what went wrong on our part. But if you were to closely examine the single seat – Thrissur – that the BJP won, you will find that it is not because we lost ground, but because the Congress polled 86,965 fewer votes in 2024 in comparison to the 2019 general election. On the other hand, the Left Democratic Front's (LDF) vote share had registered a small increase of 16,196 votes.

But the Committee document says that the Left voter has moved to the BJP.

Many sections of our supporters who stand by the LDF make different choices during the general election. They vote to defeat the BJP, and since they believe that the Congress is better placed to stop the BJP at the Centre, they support the Congress instead of us. But despite the fact that many of our co-travellers extended support to the Congress, the party still could not stop the BJP. Thrissur stands as an example of that. We are however not complacent. We are introspecting on whether the BJP has gained

votes at our cost too.

Do you see the BJP emerging as the third pole in an otherwise bipolar polity of the State?

Not yet. But we cannot deny the fact that the BJP has set itself a long-term goal to capture Kerala. When the BJP won the Nemom Assembly constituency in the 2016 election there was a similar chorus about its onward march to Kerala. But at that point too we had said that it was only episodic and due to active collusion of the Congress. Thrissur is no different. At the same time, we are not ignoring the fact that BJP's vote share has grown in every constituency.

In this context, when you are facing a resurgent BJP, how do you react to the allegations that top ranking police officers and your staff members have been meeting RSS functionaries in secret and that the CPI(M) is soft on RSS?

The Left, especially CPI (M), has always stridently opposed the RSS and other Hindutva forces. Many of our comrades have lost their lives standing up against them. No one in Kerala can believe these canards. We must understand the reasons why such allegations are being levelled. Minority communities form a significant proportion of Kerala's population. For a long time, these communities stood by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). But that has changed. The minority groups are now supporting the LDF. Knowing fully well that this will electorally hurt them, the UDF is deliberately trying to create confusion, levelling these false allegations that we are soft on the RSS. This campaign is only aimed at political gain. There are other extremist elements too at work, who are promoting communal divisions. When our government acts against Muslim extremist elements, these forces try to project that we are acting against Muslims. For example, 150 kg of gold and hawala money worth ₹123 crore were seized by the State police in the last five years from Malappuram district. This money is entering Kerala for "anti-State" and "anti-national activities". The allegations that you are referring to are a reaction to such action by our government. As for Mr. Anvar, we have already constituted a special investigation team, to probe his claims.

The 23rd Party Congress fixed an age ceiling. Members of the CC who are above the age of 75 will have to retire to make way for younger colleagues. Keeping this in mind, ahead of the next Assembly election in Kerala, will you too offer to step down?

It is not for me to answer this question. An individual cannot decide; the party runs on collective decisions. We will continue with the age-ceiling and as far as my case is concerned, it is for the party to decide. I have always worked for the party and as per the broader consensus.

Rahul Gandhi said Sitaram Yechury was the bridge between Opposition parties, who held together the architecture of INDIA bloc, because he was flexible. Do you believe that his successor should be able, much like him, to engage with other parties?

Sitaram had that unique ability. He could reach out to anyone irrespective of ideological differences and work closely with everyone. In the present Indian political context, it is essential that secular democratic forces work together. We will continue to cooperate with other Opposition parties under the banner of INDIA bloc. But we cannot pick our general secretary according to the wishes of other parties. I don't think his successor needs to be compared to Sitaram. The best candidate, who will safeguard the party's interests, will be picked as the general secretary according to the laid-down procedures.

Prakash Karat

Karat to be interim leader of CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat will be the coordinator of the Polit Bureau and the Central Committee of the party as an interim arrangement until the 24th party congress to be held in April 2025 in Madurai, the party said in a statement here.

The decision was taken on the first day of the Central Committee's two-day meeting in Delhi. Party general secretary Sitaram Yechury's demise recently left the post vacant.

Previous governments lacked vision for urban development, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday criticised previous governments for their "lack of vision and planning" for urban development. He said the Pune Metro project would have been stalled under the "old work culture" which his government had moved away from.

Mr. Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth ₹11,200 crore in Maharashtra, via video conferencing, highlighting the completion of Phase 1 of the Pune Metro as a key step in enhancing the quality of life in the city. He lauded the work done for the expansion of Pune Metro from 2016 till now because of faster decision-making and removing obstacles.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurating and laying foundation stones for projects worth ₹11,200 crore in Maharashtra, on Sunday. ANI

The Prime Minister's scheduled visit to Pune on September 26 was cancelled due to heavy rain in the city. Recently, NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule criticised Mr. Modi for inaugurating the 'same' project five times.

New ambitions

Mr. Modi stressed that Maharashtra needed new ambitions and large-scale goals, particularly in transforming Pune into a hub for urban development. Addressing the city's growing population, he said enhancing modern public transport and connectivity were crucial for accelerating urban growth, a priority of the current government in Maharashtra.

"Unfortunately, previously there was lack of vision and planning for urban development. Due to the old work culture of delays, the country and the State had to suffer. The Pune Metro project was conceived in 2008 but the foundation was laid by us in 2016 and now it is expanding. The previous government couldn't even set up one pillar of metro project in eight years," he said.

Mr. Modi also praised Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for removing obstacles to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, calling for infrastructure to be built with future needs in mind. "Various stalled projects, from Metro initiatives to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and critical irrigation projects for farmers, were delayed before the advent of the double-engine government," he said.

Centre hasn't helped Bengal fight floods, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Claiming that the Union government had not extended any help to West Bengal for flood prevention and relief, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday blamed the Farakka Barrage for the deluge in parts of north Bengal.

Ms. Banerjee, who is on tour of north Bengal, accused the Centre of "not performing its role to help the State fight the calamities". She said, "The Centre did not take up maintenance work of Farakka Barrage and its water-bearing capacity has reduced to a great extent despite our repeated reminders to them".

She also highlighted that the Centre had not allocated funds to the State for flood prevention.

Centre hell-bent on inflicting ecological disaster: Congress on Nicobar project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh has again written to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, cautioning the Centre against "ecological and humanitarian disaster", in view of a counter-affidavit filed by the Ministry in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the Great Nicobar Island Development Project.

"It is also a matter of grave concern that while the NGT deliberates on petitions before it, ANIIDCO (Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation) has already invited expressions of interest that is a precursor for the clearing of around 65 sq km of biodiversity-rich forests. I believe the Government of India is hell-bent on inflicting an ecological and humanitarian disaster on our country," said Mr. Ramesh.

Jairam Ramesh

He expressed shock that the High-Powered Committee (HPC) constituted to review environmental and Coastal Regulation Zone clearances did not associate any independent institution or expert. He raised questions on the credibility and integrity of the HPC. Mr. Ramesh accused the Ministry of diluting the NGT's directive and giving limited terms of reference to the HPC. He said the HPC did not carry out any meaningful and comprehensive reassessment as directed.

"The HPC report has been kept secret. I don't understand this: when the original process for grant of clearances itself was not classified as "privileged and confidential", how can a review however flawed and that too mandated by the court be classified thus? How can a township focusing on promotion of tourism, a commercial trans-shipment port, and a power plant be suddenly declared 'strategic projects' on which no public debate can take place?" he asked.

"Construction activities are prohibited in certain zones. According to the NGT's order of April 2023, slightly over seven sq km of total project area fell in such a prohibited zone. Now, the Ministry's counter-affidavit denies that this is the case. What is the basis of the dramatic U-turn and what confidence can be placed in the new set of facts being presented?" Mr. Ramesh asked.

Congress demands FM's resignation over electoral bond case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman after a case was filed against her and others on the directions of a special court in Karnataka, which was hearing a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme.

Addressing a press conference, senior Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi Jairam Ramesh reiterated the party's demand for a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry through a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the whole electoral bond scheme.

They alleged that four ways were used to extort money through "pre-paid bribery", "post-paid bribery" , "post-raid bribery", and through "shell companies". Mr. Ramesh said the Finance Minister should immediately resign as she was "guilty" politically, legally and morally.

Mr. Singhvi said it was obvious that the Minister could not do it on her own as the script and direction came from only one place and "we know who has done it and on whose instructions it has been done".

Jobs, development high on wish list in Ahirwal belt of Haryana

In many Assembly constituencies, voters say BJP govt. has brought in development through infrastructure projects and also provided jobs on merit; however, the Agnipath scheme and rising prices have led to some resentment in parts of the region

GROUND REPORT

Ashok Kumar
REWARI/MAHENDRAGARH

Poll mood: Villagers playing cards at Dhanonda in Mahendragarh district of Haryana. The State will go to the polls on October 5. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Having finished their morning shift, a group of bus drivers working for a prominent private school in Haryana's Rewari are busy playing cards under a tree on Friday morning. Further away, a few more drivers are seated on a makeshift bench at a tea stall, caught in a heated political debate, with barely a week to go for voting in the high-stakes Assembly election.

Gajender, a resident of Bharawas village in Bawal Assembly constituency, says the mood in his village "is largely pro-BJP". He claims that some 40-odd youth in his village, which has over 2,500 voters, got jobs on merit during the BJP rule.

Stressing how one of them, appointed as a clerk, was from a poor Scheduled Caste family that could not afford even ₹10 as bribe, he adds that "this was unthinkable in the previous regimes". Nodding, Raj Kumar, of Gokalpur in Rewari Assembly segment, says many youth from his village too had landed jobs as teachers and police personnel on merit. But he says that the number of jobs is inadequate.

Backing his claims, Rajendra, a resident of Siha village in the Kosli Assembly constituency, says the Ahirwal belt – a reference to the Gurugram-Rewari-Mahendragarh region dominated by the Yadavs (Ahirs) – has seen all-round development over the past decade. The Yadavs are classified under the Other Backward Classes.

"The National Highway 152D now connects this region to Chandigarh, the State capital, and the Delhi-Mumbai highway is also partially open. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of AIIMS at Majra Mustil Balkhi village, just 25 km from here," says Mr. Rajendra.

Several projects left incomplete by the Congress, such as the Kundli-Manesar Expressway, were completed, Rakesh, the tea stall owner, pitches in.

The Ahirwal belt, mostly bordering Rajasthan, lies in the the southern part of the agrarian State. The BJP made a clean sweep, winning all 11 Assembly seats in this region in 2014 after prominent community leader Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister and Gurugram MP, joined the party quitting the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election. In 2019, the BJP retained eight Assembly segments, with the Congress winning two and an Independent emerging victorious in one.

In the Jat-dominated Rathiwas village in Pataudi, where the Congress's Pearl Chaudhary is pitted against the BJP's Bimla Chaudhary, Jagbir rues the lack of job opportunities. He is also critical of the rising prices and hassles caused by the BJP government's e-initiatives such as Parivar Pehchan Patra and Property IDs, saying "these are some of the major issues in this part of south Haryana". A small-time farmer, Mr. Jagbir says the Agnipath scheme had dashed the hopes of several youth aspiring for permanent jobs in the Army.

In Ateli, one of the four Assembly constituencies in Mahendragarh district, Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh's daughter Arti Rao fights the "outsider" tag. She is caught in a multi-cornered contest with the Congress's Anita Yadav and the Bahujan Samaj Party's Thakur Attar Lal.

A resident of Dhanoda village in Ateli, Rattan Lal Sharma, a former journalist, says the farmer and wrestler protests have had little impact in this region. Sitting next to him, Krishan Kumar, 47, claims the region remained neglected during the previous Congress regime, with the government's only focus being the Sonipat-Rohtak-Jhajjar belt, the bastion of former Congress Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

"Over the past 10 years, basic amenities like drinking water, roads, and power supply have improved in these parts, though depleting groundwater still remains a concern," says retired police police Assistant Sub-Inspector Anoop Yadav.

In Nangal Chaudhary, caste equations do not seem to favour bureaucrat-turned-politician and Haryana Minister Abhe Singh Yadav, the BJP nominee facing a tough contestant in the Congress's Manju Chaudhary. The latter is the wife of former Jannayak Janta Party leader Mula Ram.

Poor urban infrastructure leading to severe waterlogging during monsoon, pollution, traffic jams, civic woes are some of the grievances of the voters in predominantly urban constituencies of Gurugram and Badshahpur. Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh's oft-repeated claim to chief ministership too has resonated with the electorate in this region.

At Ambala Cantonment, BJP's Vij faces farmers' fury, but all is not well for Congress too

Sobhana K. Nair
AMBALA

Angry farmers are picketing election meetings of BJP leader and former Haryana Minister Anil Vij in villages falling under the Ambala Cantonment constituency, from where he is seeking re-election for the seventh time. But the Congress, the key challenger to Mr. Vij, also does not have its house in order, with a rebel candidate in the fray dividing the anti-BJP votes.

Mr. Vij was dropped from the Haryana Cabinet after BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini replaced Manohar Lal as the Chief Minister in March.

A video of Mr. Vij taking up responsibility for the police firing on protesting farmers on the Punjab-Haryana boundary in February, when 21-year-old Shubhkaran Singh from Patiala died, has been widely circulated on social media groups. In the video he is heard saying, "Firing may have been on anyone's orders, but I was the Home Minister at that point and I take responsibility. I cannot run away."

Anil Vij

Clash at Garnala

Earlier this week, at a corner meeting in Garnala village under the constituency, hundreds of farmers descended to shout slogans "BJP *murdabad*". Mr. Vij was forced to leave midway after a clash broke out between the farmers and BJP workers.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Manjeet Singh, the block president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) who led the protest at Garnala, explained the reasons for the farmers' anger. "We wanted to just peacefully speak to Mr. Vij. There were hundreds of us, but to keep things in order, we picked just 10 of us to speak to Mr. Vij. But that too was not allowed. The BJP workers trailing him started shouting "*BJP zindabad*"and attacked us," he said.

Mr. Singh said the farmers needed answers on why the government was using oppressive measures against the protesting farmers and why the government was not keeping its promise of providing legal guarantee for minimum support price. He added, "When Mr. Vij has himself confessed that he was responsible for firing on peacefully protesting farmers then why is there no case against him?"

Mr. Singh said that he and other farmers are not with any party but are "definitely anti-BJP".

At Panjokra Sahib village, Tejpal Singh lists what he calls the "anti-farmer" measures taken by the BJP. "The government has imposed steep taxes on agricultural goods. A tractor, which used to cost ₹5 lakh-₹6 lakh, is now available for ₹10 lakh. Every year, we slip into further debt, as we are unable to recover the cost of production but the government refuses to give legal guarantee for MSP," he said.

The Congress's Parimal Pari and Independent candidate Chitra Sarwara are also in the fray. Ms. Sarwara is the daughter of Congress leader Nirmal Singh. Mr. Nirmal is contesting from Ambala City. "He wanted Congress ticket for himself and his daughter. But the party has a clear policy of one ticket for one family. When his daughter was denied ticket, she decided to contest as an Independent. This two-way split in the Congress vote bank will prove costly," a Congress worker said.

On the ground, especially in the villages, Ms. Sarwara is a more recognisable face. At Khatauli village, Risal Singh, a small grocery shopkeeper, says he has not yet made up his mind on whom to vote for, but is sure that he will vote against the BJP. "We know Chitra, we know her father. But we have never heard of the Congress candidate, till he was fielded in this election. We will vote for the person who we trust will stand with us through thick and thin," he said.

Will remain in politics till PM is ousted from power: Kharge

Press Trust of India
JASROTA/JAMMU

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge vowed to fight for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that he would remain active in politics until Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ousted from power.

"We will fight to restore Statehood. We are not going to leave it. I am 83 years old, I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive until Prime Minister Modi is removed from power. I will listen to you. I will fight for you," he told a public rally here after he was provided medical assistance at the rally venue.

The Congress chief complained of dizziness while speaking and had to be provided medical help.

"He was addressing a public rally in Jasrota when he felt uneasy and dizzy. His colleagues helped him into a chair," Congress general secretary Gulam Ahmed Mir said.

Mr. Kharge had flown to Jasrota to address a rally to garner support for his party candidates in the Assembly polls.

Later, Mr. Kharge's second rally at Udhampur was cancelled.

'Remote control'

At the Jasrota rally, Mr. Kharge alleged that the BJP was "running Jammu and Kashmir through remote control". "These people never wanted to conduct elections. They only started preparing for elections after the Supreme Court's order," he said.

He accused the BJP of failing to restore Statehood despite having the authority to do so, and criticised the party for allowing outsiders to dominate critical sectors such as mining and liquor contracts.

He condemned Mr. Modi's governance, claiming, "Modi*ji* was shedding crocodile tears for the future of the youth in J&K."

At rally in J&K, Rajnath takes jibe at Pakistan

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India would have given a larger bailout package to Pakistan than sought by Islamabad from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had the neighbouring nation maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.

Addressing an election rally in Gurez Assembly segment of Bandipora, Mr. Singh referred to the Prime Minister's development package for Jammu and Kashmir announced in 2014-15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Special package for J&K

"Modi*ji* in 2014-15 announced a special package for development of Jammu and Kashmir which has now reached ₹90,000 crore. The amount is much bigger than what Pakistan was seeking from the IMF [as bailout package]," the senior BJP leader said.

Mr. Singh referred to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous statement that "we can change friends but we cannot change the neighbours". "...my Pakistani friends, why have strained relations, we are neighbours. If we had good relations, we would have given more money than the IMF," he added.

Mr. Singh said Pakistan has been misusing financial aid for a long time. "It seeks money from other countries to run a terrorism factory on its soil."

He said Pakistan, which has used terrorism as a tool against India, has been isolated at international forums with some of its trusted allies stepping back.

"Whenever we have investigated terrorism, we have found Pakistani involvement. Pakistan is frustrated after revocation of Article 370 and is making attempts to revive terror. They do not want democracy to take roots here. [But] India is strong enough that it can take on Pakistan on its soil. If anyone in Pakistan carries out an attack on India, we can crossover and respond," he added.

Campaigning ends for final phase of J&K Assembly election

Press Trust of India
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

The intense campaigning for the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election concluded on Sunday evening, with major political parties, engaging in fierce exchanges over critical issues, including Pakistan, Article 370, terrorism, and reservation.

Voting for this crucial phase, covering 40 Assembly segments across seven districts – Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir – is scheduled for October 1.

The electoral fate of 415 candidates, including former Deputy Chief Ministers Tara Chand (Congress) and Muzaffar Beig, are at stake in this phase.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the BJP's campaign, emphasising the party's initiatives over the past 10 years.

Congress leaders also campaigned vigorously, promising to restore Statehood and provide a "people-friendly" government in a coalition with the National Conference.

The NC and Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party also intensified their outreach efforts.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
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TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2024_KMML_692562_1	Global Tender for Manufacturing and Supply of Paper Valve Product Bags for RC-822, RC-813 and RC-800 PG+
2	2024_KMML_690107_1	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves
3	2024_KMML_691470_1	For the supply of Class 1 Brick Acid Resistant
4	2024_KMML_684115_1	Installation of Side Screen Filtration System(SSF) for cooling tower in TP Unit
5	2024_KMML_692648_1	Fabrication & Supply of Sodium Aluminate Tank F555 (FRP-Bisphenol)
6	2024_KMML_692703_1	Fabrication & Supply of Water Cooled Condenser E206

Chavara 27.09.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-06/2024-25 No.3335//Dated:23.09.2024

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Building and Road Works** as detailed in the table below.
2. Nature of work : **Building and Road Works**
3. No. of work : **06 Nos.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/- (online)**
5. Class of Contractor : **"B" Class & "A" Class**
6. Availability of Bid document in the Website. : From **03.10.2024 10.00 AM to 17.10.2024 5.30 PM**
7. Date of Opening of Bid : **18.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
9. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- (Ashis Kumar Nayak)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C), Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur.
B-341: OIPR-34103/11/0006/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - (2nd CALL) (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
	Office of the Chief Engineer(East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/5021/2024-25 Date: 27.09.2024	
1.	Work of providing an laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer pipe line in Kammanahalli main road from IOC to Empire Signal, RS Palya, Banasawadi coming under Banasawadi service station of AEESE-2 Sub-division and for the work of providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer pipe line at Nehru road, Hennur road to Kullappa circle pertaining to AEEE-2-1 Sub-division and work of providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer line at Hennur junction, ORR to Lingarajapura Flyover pertaining to Lingarajapura service station of AEEE-2-2 Sub-division and work of providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer line at IOC flyover to ORR pertaining to Lingarajapura service station of AEEE-2-2 Sub- division. - **White topping work.**	Rs. 377.12 Lakhs / Rs. 5.66 Lakhs
2.	Work of providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia MS pipeline and 100mm dia DI pipeline at K.H.Road from Mission Road to Lalbagh East for BBMP white topping work coming under Johnson Market Service Station of AEESE-1 Sub-Division. **-White topping work.**	Rs. 140.89 Lakhs / Rs. 2.11 Lakhs

For above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **15.10.2024 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **16.10.2024 after 17:00Hrs**.
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/RA/2263/2024-25 Sd/- Chief Engineer(East).

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
	Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA) , 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560009	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/1602/2024-25 Date: 25.09.2024	
1.	Work of construction of Service Station Building at Domlur coming under AEE SE-2-1 Sub Division, Bangalore.	Rs. 77,81,864/- / Rs. 1,55,637/-
2.	Work of construction of Service Station Building at Sahakarnagar coming under AEE (North-1-1) Sub Division, Bangalore.	Rs. 77,81,864/- / Rs. 1,55,637/-
3.	Work of construction of 12 Numbers House Quarters (Stilt+GF+FF+SF) at Sir MV Layout, GLR Premises, Bangalore.	Rs. 391.95 Lakhs / Rs. 6,95,000/-
4.	Work of construction of Service Station and Division Office at Vijaya Bank Layout, Bangalore.	Rs. 1,76,38,653/- / Rs. 2,64,580/-
5.	Work of construction of 12 Numbers House Quarters (Stilt+GF+FF+SF) at Nandini Layout, Bangalore.	Rs. 391.95 Lakhs / Rs. 6,95,000/-

For the above works, last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **21.10.2024** upto **16:00 hrs**. The technical bids will be opened on **22.10.2024** at **12:00 noon**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/MIA/2241/2024-25 Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Design & QA)**

INBRIEF

Terrorist killed in Kathua; encounter begins in Rajouri

A terrorist, suspected to be affiliated to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, was killed in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said on Sunday. Another encounter also broke out in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri district on Sunday evening when security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation after getting information about the presence of two terrorists, the officials said. "Based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists, a joint search operation was launched by security forces at Manial Gali in Thanamandi.

5 CRPF personnel injured as Naxalites trigger landmine

Five Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, including an officer, were wounded in an IED (improvised explosive device) blast triggered by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred in the Tarrem police station area around 7 a.m., a police official said. During the demining exercise, security personnel spotted a wire connected to a pressure IED. While they were searching for the bomb connected to the wire, it exploded, causing splinter injuries to five personnel, he said.

Nine killed as sleeper bus rams parked truck in M.P.

The bus with 45 passengers was heading from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh to Nagpur in Maharashtra; 20 people injured in the accident; Yogi Adityanath and Mohan Yadav express grief

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Nine people were killed and 20 injured after a passenger bus from Uttar Pradesh collided with a stationary truck in Maihar district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday night, the police said.

There were 45 passengers in the bus, most of them hailing from Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. The rest were from Nagpur.

The accident took place on National Highway-30 around 10.45 p.m. The sleeper bus, travelling from Prayagraj to Nagpur in Maharashtra, crashed into the truck loaded with stones in the Nadan Rural police station area.

"The impact was severe as the bus was in high speed. The front part of the bus was heavily damaged," Maihar Superintendent of Police Sudhir Agrawal said.

Mr. Agrawal said a police team immediately reached the spot and a rescue operation was launched with the help of teams from the National Highway Authority of India and some NGOs.

Rescue work under way after a bus collided with a truck in Maihar district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday night. PTI

"People who were safe [in the bus] were rescued through the emergency door," Mr. Agrawal said, adding that six people died on the spot, while the injured were sent to hospitals in Maihar and Amarpatan towns.

"A total of nine people were referred to the district hospital in [the neighbouring district of] Satna," he said.

A four-year-old was among the deceased.

Superintendent of Police, City, Rajeev Pathak told *The Hindu* that the cause of the accident was yet to be ascertained. The police are yet to question the bus driver, who is in hospital.

He said an FIR had been filed against the bus driver. "We have also booked the truck driver as he had parked the vehicle partly on the road," Mr. Pathak said. "We are now coordinating with Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra Police to contact the families of victims...We have identified all nine bodies," he said.

Financial assistance

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Madhya Pradesh counterpart, Mohan Yadav, expressed grief over the incident.

"The district administration has been directed to provide proper treatment to the injured and the families of the deceased will be provided financial assistance by the government as per rules," Mr. Yadav said.

"The loss of life in a road accident in Maihar, Madhya Pradesh is extremely sad. My condolences are with the grieving families of the deceased. Instructions have been given to the officials to establish contact with the Madhya Pradesh administration and provide all possible assistance to the victims," Mr. Adityanath said.

Doctors threaten fresh stir over Bengal hospital violence

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Thousands of junior doctors in West Bengal's government hospitals have threatened to strike work again over an attack on doctors and medical staff at the Sagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital in North 24 Parganas a few days ago.

On Friday, relatives of a woman admitted to theSagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital allegedly assaulted doctors and hospital staff after she died at the hospital. The doctors and medical staff of the hospital went on the strike after the alleged assault. While four persons have been arrested for the violence at Sagore Dutta MCH and the security of the hospital has been beefed up, the junior doctors have said that not much has changed after the rape and murder of the doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9.

Representatives of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front said that they are waiting for the Supreme Court hearing on Monday and will go on strike if the situation does not improve. "We want to give some time to the government. If the situation does not change, we will start a complete ceasework again from Monday evening," a representative said.

Junior doctors said they would continue strike if the situation did not improve. PTI

After a 42-day strike in protest against the rape and muder of the on-duty woman resident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, junior doctors had partially called off their cease work on September 21.

Junior doctors had on Saturday written an email to Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, reiterating their demands which were "yet to be fulfilled" by the State government.

Navy chief holds talks on strategic ties with officials in Greece

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Greece discussed avenues for cross-training in niche technologies and advanced courses, as well as ways to strengthen strategic and operational ties, during Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi's just-concluded visit to Greece.

Adm. Tripathi, who was in Greece from September 26 to 29, held talks with General Dimitrios Choupis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, at the Salamis Naval Base. "Discussions focused on strengthening strategic and operational ties, enhancing bilateral military cooperation, and tackling evolving maritime challenges through a collaborative approach towards a stable and secure Mediterranean and Indian Ocean Region," the Navy said in a statement.

His talks with Greece's Deputy Minister of Defence Ioannis Kefalogiannis focused on the criticality of open sea trade routes. They laid the groundwork for advancing Indo-Greek defence collaboration with a focus on strategic naval opportunities, capacity building, shared training initiatives, and enhancing interoperability, the Navy added.

The Navy chief was received in Athens by Vice-Adm. Dimitrios E. Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Papagos Camp and also held talks with with Vice-Adm. Polychronis Koulouris, Commander-in-Chief of the Hellenic Fleet. "Discussions focused on enhancing operational interactions and interoperability. He was also briefed on the Hellenic Fleet's capabilities and evolving security challenges, reinforcing the shared commitment to maritime security," the Navy said.

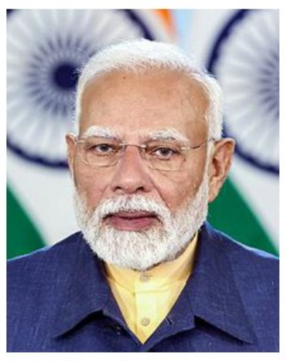
PM urges participation in 'Create in India' challenges, says it is a huge platform

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that with changing times, the nature of jobs was also changing and new sectors, including gaming, animation, reel- and film-making were emerging. He encouraged people to participate in the 25 challenges under the 'Create in India' theme launched recently by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to promote talent and creativity.

"If you can perform well in any of these skills, your talent can get a very big platform. If you are a part of a band or working for community radio, then too there is a huge opportunity for you," Mr. Modi said in his monthly *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme.

He said that some of the 'Create in India' challenges focussed on music, education, and even on anti-piracy. "There are many professional organisations associated with this aim and are providing full support to these challenges. In order to participate, you can log in to wavesindia.org. I specially urge the creators in the country to ensure participation and bring their creativity to the fore," Mr. Modi said.



Narendra Modi

Describing the episode as an emotional one for him, he said *Mann Ki Baat* would be completing 10 years on October 3, the first day of Navratri. He said the programme had proved how hungry the people of the country were for positive information. He added that September 2024 also marked 10 years of the 'Make in India' campaign that benefited the poor, the middle-class and the micro, small, and medium enterprises , turning India into a manufacturing powerhouse.

The country had also seen a spike in foreign direct investment inflows, he said.

He urged people to promote and buy local products during the forthcoming festive season, citing an initiative in Maharashtra's Bhandara, where over 50 self-help groups were working to preserve the old textile tradition of Bhandara tussar silk handloom.

Constable dragged to death after he told car driver to slow down

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On being asked to drive cautiously, a car driver allegedly hit a motorcycle-borne constable, who was dressed as a civilian to prevent burglaries, and dragged him for about 10 metres in outer Delhi early on Sunday, leading to his death, officials said.

The incident took place at about 2.15 a.m. near Veena Enclave when 30-year-old Sandeep was going towards Railway Road from the Nangloi police station during duty hours dressed in civilian clothes, a senior official said.

"When Sandeep noticed a car being driven recklessly, he told the driver not to do so. But instead of listening to him, the vehicle increased its speed and hit his motorcycle from behind and dragged him for 10 metres before hitting a parked car," Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jimmy Chiram said.

The constable was immediately taken to Sonia Hospital and later shifted to Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar, where he was declared dead.

"CCTV footage showed that Sandeep took a left turn in the street and indicated the vehicle to slow down," Mr. Chiram said. Sandeep received head injuries that led to his death, he added.

A video that went viral on social media showed that two men on another motorcycle were seen behind the car. They stopped their vehicle and went to check on the constable.

The police said a case under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita had been registered, and a probe had been taken up to nab the absconding accused.

Sandeep is survived by his mother, wife, and a five-year-old son, the DCP said.

Flood alert issued for north and central Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
RANCHI

The Bihar government on Sunday sounded an alert for floods in northern and central parts of the State following heavy discharge of water from the Birpur and Valmikinagar barrages.

A total of 6.61 cusecs of water was discharged from the Birpur barrage till 5 a.m. on Sunday, the highest since 1968, the State Water Resources Department said in a post on X.

On Saturday, 5.38 lakh cusecs was released from the Valmikinagar barrage on Gandak river.

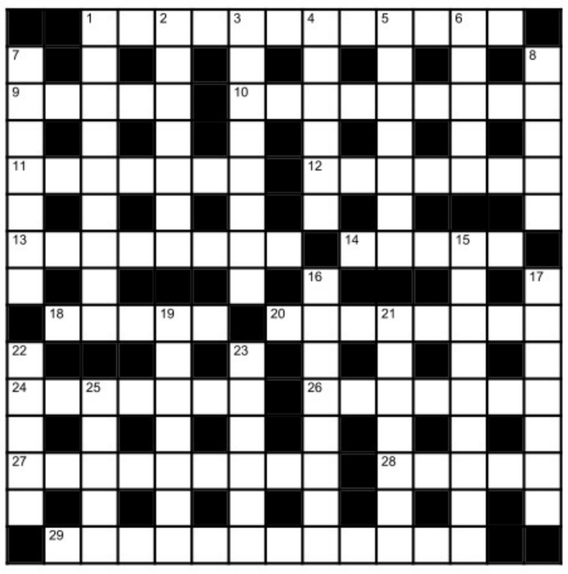
The discharge of water could aggravate the condition of over 16 lakh people, who are already affected by inundation following heavy rain. The Gandak, Kosi, Bagmati, Budhi Gandak, Kamla Balan, Mahananda, and Ganga rivers saw a rise in water levels following the discharge.

TH CROSSWORD + 14293

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Highest robbery of police car in Royal England? Perhaps yes (5,7)
9 Unwell mostly assumes to remain unemotional (5)
10 You old saint! Get ready for once (9)
11 Maybe cricket ball in climatic condition claims wicket for league (7)
12 See them in courts in groups chopping head (7)
13 Viewers finally will become mad with pay channel (8)
14 Slip of tongue initially in assurance (5)
18 One is out of the one or the other number (5)
20 Cannabis and cocaine hidden in belt. Money down (4,4)
24 Sweet liqueur at a fair deal (7)
26 Drunken enemies beheaded by socialist in revenge (7)
27 Delivery may mostly lose energy forever (9)
28 Foreign Secretary heartily leaves for good ally (5)
29 What a cabdriver might do to cheat? (4,3,1,4)

Down

1 Doing nothing? Eat bananas to reduce weight (2,2,1,4)
2 Maybe stout student enters in a high school without shoes initially (7)
3 Daughter may dare to build castles in the air (8)
4 Sailor's language almost meaningless (6)
5 Work force lay-off - That is the style of Head! (4-3)
6 New adult content, long for such magazine (5)
7 Unable to save (7)
8 Traveller's coordinate found in the navigational aid by Yankee (5)
15 Desperate maiden saw water (5,4)
16 Layer of cells in brain may need to work controlling pressure (8)
17 Running after drink and pipe (7)
19 Put the screws on workmen for celebrations inside (7)
21 Kettledrums, originally Indian mridangams in inappropriate revolution (7)
22 Bump into iron body (5)
23 Card game - Cash is not without limits! (6)
25 Ill-treat tropical fish (5)

SUDOKU

5				8		6	3	9
9			6					8
	4			3	7	5		
		9						6
2	1						8	4
8						3		
		5	8	4			9	
3					2			7
1	8	2		7				3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6296 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	U	S	T	S		S	Y	M	B	I	O	S	I	S
L		P		T		O		Y		N		T		C
I	N	L	I	E	R	S		T	I	T	R	A	T	E
N		U		A		O		W		E		T		P
T	I	R	A	D	E		F	O	G	G	I	E	S	T
Z		G		Y		L		C		E				R
E	V	I	L		W	I	R	E	B	R	I	D	G	E
		E		F		M		N		S		I		
T	E	R	R	A	C	O	T	T	A		A	S	K	S
I				T		N		S		H		M		C
P	R	E	C	I	N	C	T		N	O	F	E	A	R
C		Q		G		E		T		B		M		E
A	S	U	S	U	A	L		I	G	N	O	B	L	E
R		A		E		L		M		O		E		C
T	E	L	E	S	C	O	P	E		B	I	R	T	H

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	1	4	9	2	3	5	6
5	3	2	7	6	8	9	1	4
4	6	9	3	1	5	2	8	7
9	2	4	5	7	6	8	3	1
1	7	3	8	2	9	6	4	5
6	5	8	1	4	3	7	9	2
8	4	5	2	3	7	1	6	9
3	9	7	6	5	1	4	2	8
2	1	6	9	8	4	5	7	3

FAITH

Krishna for two-fold faith

The Bhagavad Gita teaches everyone to live well, but one should develop the correct perspective and develop the knowledge that can awaken one's inner being and transform one. Chapter III of the Gita shows us how to achieve this, said Swami Mitranandaji in a discourse.

When Arjuna was caught on the horns of a dilemma over the terrible Kurukshetra war, he asked Lord Krishna to show him clearly which path to pursue, whether the one of action or that of knowledge. Lord Krishna points out that a two-fold faith has been declared by Him for the human race even earlier than the Mahabharat war: the way of knowledge for the Sankhyas and the way of action for the Yogis. The path of a sankhya however calls for a logical, rational mindset, with a completely still inner core, which not many of us possess. The mere act of meditation or pursuit of knowledge without mastery over senses is a futile exercise. Krishna says fix your mind upon Me and remain there. Most devotees, aspiring for a calm mind, find it tough to achieve that meditative state. This state of restlessness is natural since each one conducts himself on earth as per his *prakriti* (guna).

When one channelises that restlessness into work, one is well on the path to spiritual progression. Work is worship.

A 'standard' parameter that helps decide the right cover

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

The Arogya Sanjeevani policy serves as a reference point for hospitalisation policies. The only effort you have to make is to decide which company you want to buy the policy from

The standardised policy mandated by the insurance regulator can serve as a sample, or reference point, using which you can make sense of other policies that are available on the market.

As we saw in the previous instalment of CoverNote, the Arogya Sanjeevani policy serves as that reference point for hospitalisation policies. Each company has to offer this policy mandatorily.

If you had made the effort to look through the policy and what it covers/excludes, you may well be tempted to opt for this policy as it has a standard set of terms and conditions and is a kind of an off-the-shelf product.

The only further effort you have to make is to decide which company you want to buy the policy from. The premium rate can be a deciding factor, but my advice would be that you should also take into account any existing relationship with an insurance company.

For example, you may already have a policy from X insurance company. For hospitalisation policies, it can only be a general insurance company or a standalone health insurance company, and you may have your home or vehicle insurance with them or another health-related policy.

In this case, even if you have found that the premium rate is not the best on comparison, you may do well to opt to go with them because this relationship strengthens your position with the company and also with your agent or other intermediary through whom you bought the policy.

Check points

On the other hand, if you have had negative experiences with them, you may want to opt for a different company. How do you do that? Ask your friends and family for their insurance company and/or agent and how their experience has shaped up. Check company websites for their claims settling ratios - specifically in the category of policy you are shopping for, namely hospitalisation policies - and zero in on the right target. There is one more situation when you should simply opt for the Arogya Sanjeevani policy. That is, when you need to buy a policy urgently. The reason could simply be a long-postponed decision and the tax season drawing near, an improvement in your affordability or triggered by somebody else's sudden hospitalisation and the attendant expenses.

Whatever that may be, buy the policy and keep it active by making timely premium payments (these days you can even pay premiums monthly). If this was a stopgap purchase you can shift to a different, better suited policy with more of the options that you need.

However, get into the act well before your annual renewal date to study and decide which policy you want to shift to because that will be the time when you can do so.

Yes, you can do make the switch and preserve the various waiting periods that you have already gone through.

How to choose the new policy? We will get to that in the upcoming instalment of CoverNote.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

Should you bin your unused credit cards?

When you close one of your credit cards, your total credit limit decreases, potentially raising your credit utilisation ratio; unused cards can also contribute to your overall available credit

PROS & CONS

Rohit Chhibbar

If you have multiple credit cards, you might be wondering whether it would be wise to close one of your existing credit card accounts. While closing a credit card is easy, you should carefully weigh the pros and cons before taking a decision.

Here are a few things you must consider before closing a credit card.

Increase in CUR

The credit utilisation ratio (CUR) shows the amount of credit that you have used compared with your total credit limit. Credit bureaus give a significant weightage to CUR when calculating your credit score.

Hence, maintaining a moderate CUR is beneficial, as it shows that you are not overly dependent on credit. Even unused credit cards contribute to keeping your ratio in check by adding to your overall available credit.

When you close one of your credit cards, your total credit limit decreases, potentially raising your CUR, if your total spending remains unchanged.

An extremely high CUR, especially if continued for several months, can negatively affect your credit score. Suppose you have a total usage of ₹1,50,000 collectively on three credit cards with limits as follows: credit card 1 – ₹1,00,000; credit card 2 – ₹2,50,000; and credit card 3 – ₹80,000.

> Every credit card comes with a unique set of benefits, such as complimentary lounge access, co-branded offers, movie discounts

Now that you have all your credit accounts active, your total credit limit is ₹4,30,000. Based on the used credit amount of ₹ 1,50,000, your credit utilization will be 30.23%.

Now if you decide to close your credit card 2. The total credit limit will be ₹1,80,000.

Considering your expenses remain the same at ₹1,50,000, your credit utilization ratio will rise to 72.22%.

Decrease in credit age

The length of your credit history also plays a crucial role in your credit score. Your oldest active credit card contributes to a longer credit history as it reflects that you are experienced with credit and skilled at managing your credit accounts over a longer course of time.

> If you have a credit card that you rarely use, offers minimal benefits, has low credit limit and carries a high annual fee, it is wise to cancel it

This is viewed positively by the lenders as well. Closing your first credit card, even if it is unused, can lead to a significant decrease in your credit age and, consequently, may lead to a drop in your credit score.

Losing out on benefits

Every credit card comes with a unique set of benefits, such as complimentary lounge access, co-branded offers, and movie discounts.

Even if you do not use a particular card frequently, you might still benefit from these additional perks.

Hence, it is important to carefully evaluate the benefits of the card you are closing, considering both your current and potential future spending habits.

When does it make sense to close a credit card account?

If you have a credit card that you rarely use, offers minimal benefits, has low credit limit and carries a high annual fee, it might be wise to cancel it.

Additionally, if you have multiple credit cards and find it challenging to manage each card responsibly, it could be better to close some of the accounts instead of falling into debt.

Struggling to keep up with payments can also harm your credit score.

In such situations, you can consider cancelling a card, preferably the one offering the least benefits. But, do consider it should not have any impact on the age of your credit history.

Cost-benefit analysis

Before making a decision on closing your card account, conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis.

Identify if you are paying a hefty amount for insignificant benefits or if you can utilise the card's rewards or cashback structure for savings.

If you do think closing your cards would be helpful, try to minimise the impact. Avoid closing too many accounts at once.

If you have multiple unused cards, proceed gradually and consider the age of each account.

Instead of discontinuing a card entirely, you can focus on maximising its benefits and keeping it active, as this can be more advantageous in the long run.

(The writer is Head of Credit Cards Business, Paisabazaar)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Rs 101
State Bank of India	11.45-14.85	10,984-11,856	2,197-2,371	NIL
ICICI Bank	10.85 onwards	10,834 onwards	2,167 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda	11.15-18.75	10,909-12,902	2,182-2,580	Up to 2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	11.25 onwards	10,934 onwards	2,187 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.85-16.10	10,834-12,186	2,167-2,437	0.50%-1% (Min Rs 250, Max Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	10.95-16.40	10,859-12,266	2,172-2,453	0.50% (Maximum Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.40-17.95	10,772-12,683	2,144-2,537	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.75-13.50	10,809-11,505	2,162-2,301	0.50%-1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.43	11,487	2,297	Up to 2% of loan (Min. Rs 2,500 Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	1.5%-3.5%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.70 - 10.45	10,307 - 10,735	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.95 - 12.70	10,367 - 11,300	Up to Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.70 - 12.70	10,307 - 11,300	0.25% (Maximum Rs 2,500)
Bank of India	8.85 - 12.10	10,343 - 11,148	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	9.05-10.10	10,391-10,648	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.65	10,331 - 10,294	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 - 12.00	10,343 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.37	10,350 - 10,964	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.75% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 onwards	10,379 onwards	Up to Rs 10,000
City Union Bank	9.90-11.50	10,599-10,996	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.25% to borrowers having credit scores of 750-799.

Rates and charges as on September 17 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

Setting up commitment savings

THINKINVESTOR

Your investment process must systematically save from your post-tax monthly income and must not let you spend the accumulated wealth before the end of the time horizon for a life goal

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Spending often is an automatic response. Savings is an acquired discipline. It is, therefore, important that you adopt a process that facilitates your savings habit. In this article, we discuss an investment process, a form of commitment savings, that you can adopt to accumulate wealth.

Your investment process must have two elements. One, the process must systematically save from your post-tax monthly income. And two, it must not be easy for you to withdraw money and spend the accumulated wealth before the end of the time horizon for a life goal. To address the first element of the process, you can adopt a systematic investment plan (SIP) for your equity and bond investments. You can set up an SIP on an equity ETF or an equity index fund or an active fund. You can do the same for your bond investments – set up a recurring deposit with your preferred bank.

What about the second element? Banks typically charge a penalty for premature withdrawal of recurring deposits. This ought to discourage you from withdrawing the money before the end of the time horizon for a life goal. Typically, the maturity of your deposit will match with the time horizon for a life goal. But this argument cannot work for equity investments.

Your equity investments can be withdrawn easily; you can typically redeem your fund units without any exit load after one year from the date of investment.

You must, therefore, set up a process to avoid selling the investments and spending it before the end of the time horizon for a life goal. At the same time, you must you have the flexibility to take out the gains and re-invest the proceeds in bonds to reduce the risk of losing your unrealised gains should the market decline. To balance these two requirements, you must adopt a rule to take out gains. Next, you must allow your spouse, partner, sibling, or parents to operate your equity investments. That is, you set up the SIP, and they control the redemption decision; you must convince them why you want to sell your equity investments before the end of the time horizon for a life goal.

Conclusion

Setting up an investment process is important to accumulate wealth through your investing life.

Spending today brings us more happiness then saving today to spend more in the future.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

HODEIDA

Four killed, 30 injured as Israel conducts air strikes on Yemen

AFP

Israeli air strikes on Yemen killed four people on Sunday and wounded more than 30, Houthi media reported, after the Israeli military said it struck targets in the Iran-backed rebels' territory including Hodeida. It added that ambulance and rescue teams were still searching for missing people. AFP

KYIV

At least 13 wounded in southern Ukraine in Russian air strikes

AFP

At least 13 people were wounded on Sunday in a series of Russian strikes on Zaporizhzhia in southern Ukraine, emergency services announced. The regional capital was hit by several "massive aerial strikes" at dawn, they said. Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed that it took the village of Makiivka in Luhansk region. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Separatists kill seven labourers in Pakistan's restive Balochistan

AFP

At least seven labourers from Punjab province were killed by separatists in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, police said on Sunday. The labourers from Multan were shot dead late on Saturday night when they were asleep in an under-construction house in the Khuda-e-Abadan area of Panjgur town. PTI

PUERTO DE LA ESTACA

Search resumes for 48 missing migrants off Spanish Canaries

REUTERS

Rescue teams on Sunday resumed searching for at least 48 migrants who went missing the day before when their boat overturned just as it was being rescued off Spain's Canary Islands, killing at least nine people. Twenty-seven migrants were rescued after the boat, which had set out from Mauritania overturned off El Hierro. AFP

Air strikes by Israel kill 11 Palestinians in Gaza Strip

The Israeli military said it struck Hamas militants operating from a command centre embedded in a compound that previously served as Um Al-Fahm School; Hamas denies using civilians as cover

Reuters
CAIRO

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 11 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave said on Sunday, as Israeli planes bombarded several northern, central and southern areas.

A school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip was among buildings hit, killing four people and wounded several others, Gaza medics said.

The Israeli military said it struck Hamas militants operating from a command centre embedded in a compound that had previously served as Um Al-Fahm School. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilian facilities and its population for military purposes, which Hamas denies.

In another strike, three people were killed in a house in Gaza City, medics said. Four others were killed in three separate air strikes in Nuseirat and Khan Younis in central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip.

War's toll: A school partially destroyed by Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, amid the Israel-Hamas war. AFP

Israeli forces pursued their operations in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, and in Gaza City's suburb of Zeitoun, where forces blew up several houses, according to residents and Hamas media.

On Sunday, the Israeli military said forces continue the fight in a "multi-front war" and are operating in Gaza to bring Israeli and foreign hostages home and to "dismantle" Hamas.

Tunnels discovered

It said troops discovered and dismantled an underground tunnel route that is approximately one km long near residential buildings and civilian spaces in central Gaza, adding that they found several rooms and equipment used by Hamas for prolonged periods.

Fighting and Israeli military activities in Gaza have declined in the past week as Israel escalated its military offensive against Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, killing its leader Hassan Nasrallah in an air strike on Friday. The group announced Nasrallah's death on Saturday.

Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been displaced by the war, in which 41,500 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza health authorities.

Israel and Hamas have been fighting since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group stormed into southern Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people and capturing about 250 hostages, going by Israeli tallies.

China says it stands for Lebanon's sovereignty

Reuters
SHANGHAI

China opposes any violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and "condemns actions that harm civilians", China's Foreign Ministry said on its website on Sunday after an Israeli air strike on Beirut killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Nasrallah's death is widely considered a significant blow to the Iran-aligned group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

China urges all parties and especially Israel to immediately cool the situation and prevent the conflict from expanding or "even getting out of control", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

170 killed as floods and landslides batter Nepal

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 170 people across the Himalayan republic.

Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal.

Desperate search: Rescue personnel work to retrieve the bodies of victims from a landslide in Dhading, Nepal, on Sunday. REUTERS

Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said 170 people had been killed across the country with another 42 still missing.

Home Ministry spokesperson Rishi Ram Tiwari said that bulldozers were being used to clear several highways that had been blocked by debris, cutting Kathmandu off from the rest of the country.

The valley in which the capital sits recorded 240 millimetres of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning, the country's weather bureau told the *Kathmandu Post* newspaper.

It was the highest rainfall recorded in Kathmandu since at least 1970, the report said.

Austria holds election with far right bidding for historic victory

Reuters
VIENNA

Austrians elect a new Parliament on Sunday with the far-right Freedom Party (FPO) aiming to secure its first general election win in a neck-and-neck race with the ruling conservatives that has been dominated by economic worries and immigration.

Having led opinion polls for months, the FPO's edge over the Austrian People's Party (OVP) has shrunk to almost nothing as Chancellor Karl Nehammer casts himself as a statesman and depicts his rival, far-right FPO leader Herbert Kickl, as a toxic menace.

Karl Nehammer

An FPO victory would make Austria the latest European Union country to register surging far-right support after gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany.

U.S. strikes on Syria kill 37 'affiliated with extremist groups'

Associated Press
BEIRUT

In Syria, 37 militants affiliated with the extremist Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said on Sunday. Two of the dead were senior militants, it said.

U.S. Central Command said it struck northwestern Syria on Tuesday, targeting a senior militant from the al-Qaeda-linked Hurras al-Deen group and eight others. They say he was responsible for overseeing military operations.

They also announced a strike from earlier this month on September 16, where they conducted a "large-scale air strike" on an Islamic State training camp in a remote undisclosed location in central Syria. That attack killed 28 militants.

"The air strike will disrupt ISIS' capability to conduct operations against U.S. interests, as well as our allies and partners," the statement read.

There are some 900 U.S. forces in Syria, along with an undisclosed number of contractors, mostly trying to prevent any comeback by the extremist Islamic State group.

Interim government should make way for a 'more efficient' set-up: ex-BNP MP

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

With countrywide incidents of lynching of political activists from the deposed Awami League and growing violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the condition of Bangladesh under Prof. Muhammad Yunus-led interim government has turned 'clumsy', said a leading member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Former BNP member of Parliament, Rumeen Farhana, said the law and order machinery in Bangladesh was not functioning and called upon the Yunus administration to make way for a "more efficient" set-up.

"The interim government is not elected by the people and it is only an elected government that can be held accountable for its acts of omission and commission. The interim government should hand over power to a more efficient government if they are unable to deal with the present challenges," said Ms. Farhana. Ms. Farhana had been a member of Parliament during the Sheikh Hasina years and was noted for her fiery criticism of the Awami League government.

"If this government is still not able to control law and order strictly, they should give the reins to those who are more capable," Ms. Farhana had declared in a TV interview.

The interim administration has launched six committees that are expected to come out with reports suggesting reforms in various sectors. But the reform agenda of the government has been overshadowed by frequent reports of 'mob justice' or lynching of activists of Awami League's student wing, looting and extortion of private entrepreneurs.

Ms. Farhana said that the lack of strict policing against the perpetrators of such crimes had generated an impression that the police forces of Bangladesh were disinclined to act against them.

NOT AMUSED

Kanpur fans peeved at groundstaff's lack of effort

PTI

Fans in Kanpur were peeved at the groundstaff's lack of effort to get the ground ready for play on day three. "There was no rain, yet they couldn't start. If there was a wet patch on the ground, why was nothing done to fix it? We spent ₹500 for our tickets and sat through for six hours in this humidity," said one spectator.

BIG UPSET

Osasuna dismantles Barcelona's perfect LaLiga start

AP

Osasuna shattered LaLiga leader Barcelona's perfect start to the season with an emphatic 4-2 victory on Saturday. The Catalans had won all seven of their opening fixtures
The result: LaLiga: Osasuna 4 (Budimir 18, 72-pen, Zaragoza 28, Bretones 85) bt Barcelona 2 (Victor 53, Yamal 89).

SPECIAL

Debutant Peiris spins Sri Lanka to an innings victory

AFP

Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris took six wickets on Sunday to seal Sri Lanka's first series win against New Zealand in 15 years with a victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test at Galle.
The scores: Sri Lanka 602/5 decl. vs New Zealand 88 & 360 in 81.4 overs (Peiris 6/170). **PoM**: Kamindu Mendis. **PoS**: Jayasuriya.

ALL-ROUND SHOW

Head stars as Australia seals ODI series 3-2 against England

AP

Travis Head (4/28 and 31) helped Australia beat England by 49 runs in the final ODI at Bristol on Sunday to complete a 3-2 series win.
The scores: England 309 in 49.2 overs (Duckett 107, Brook 72, Head 4/28) lost to Australia 165/2 in 20.4 overs (Short 58). *Australia wins five-match series 3-2.* **PoM & PoS:** *Head*

Green Park drops the ball, leaves fans high and dry

Though there was no rain, poor drainage facilities meant there were areas on the outfield that remained damp; a draw could have an impact on India's chances of a WTC final spot

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
KANPUR

Damp squib: Super soppers could not get the ground ready for action despite the rain relenting. SANDEEP SAXENA

Play was abandoned for a second day in succession owing to a wet outfield on day three of the second Test between India and Bangladesh at the Green Park Stadium here on Sunday.

Inexcusable

Unlike day two, where it rained until about 10 a.m. and was overcast later, skies cleared by 7.30 a.m. on Sunday and remained dry throughout. That there was no action was inexcusable.

Thus far, only the opening day has seen some cricket, with Bangladesh, who was asked to bat first, reaching 107 for three from 35 overs. In the morning, there was some hope when the markers removed the covers from the pitch and got the stumps in place by 9.30 a.m. The first inspection was at 10 a.m. when on-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Chris Brown, alongside fourth umpire Virender Sharma, were seen stomping their shoes and inspecting the outfield.

Unsatisfied, they came out again at noon, and then again at 2 p.m. It was bright and sunny, but the umpires were forced to call off play. The uncertainty also meant players from both teams seemingly made a wise decision to stay back in their hotels.

The Hindu understands that the fine-leg boundary region near the pavilion side for a right-hander, and the mid-wicket and extra-cover regions just beyond the square area weren't fully dry.

The bowler's run-up too was a potential source of concern. The officials had to be mindful of the risk of injuries on a soggy outfield.

The groundstaff used sand and sawdust over the wet patches, hoping that those areas would dry soon, but their efforts proved futile.

The issue was that the venue doesn't have a sand-based outfield like some of the other centres in the country, which allows for more efficient and quick drainage. Green Park has a soil-based outfield that takes time to dry.

The failure to get the ground ready, despite nature relenting, cast a poor light on the historic venue's ability to host international fixtures.

The stadium had already been under scrutiny when a section of the 'C' stand had to be closed because of structural integrity concerns.

On the backfoot

More importantly, it brings into focus BCCI's decision to allot Tests to venues where drainage facilities are far from ideal. Not only has this episode put the UPCA and the apex body on the backfoot, the outcome of this game could also cost India dearly.

Having comprehensively beaten Bangladesh in the opening fixture in Chennai by 280 runs, the hosts would have fancied another win here.

Rohit Sharma's men need four more wins from the remaining nine fixtures, including this, to seal their place in next summer's World Test Championship final.

However, India now stares at the possibility of not being able to maximise its home advantage. With three matches in its backyard against New Zealand, India had the chance to get the five wins before flying to Australia. A draw here could complicate this.

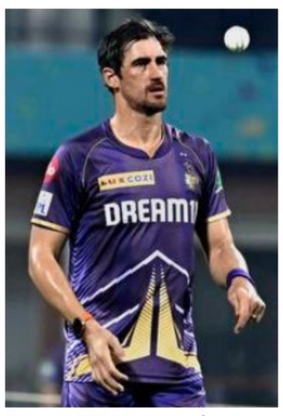
Fortunately, the forecast for the final two days of this encounter looks good.

The million-dollar question will be whether the authorities can get the ground ready.

Overseas players' earnings capped at ₹18 crore

IPL AUCTION

Amol Karhadkar
BENGALURU



Starc at ₹24.75 cr was the biggest beneficiary at the last mini-auction in December 2023. R. RAGU

In a bid to ensure that Indian cricketers end up raking in the most money in the Indian Premier League (IPL) player auction, the IPL governing council has capped an overseas player's earning at the mini-auction at ₹18 crore, the highest permissible retention fees.

The decision was made while finalising the IPL player auction rules here on Saturday night. Later, a document with salient features about player regulations for the IPL 2025 player auction was shared with the franchises and BCCI affiliates.

"Any overseas player's auction fee at the small auction will be lower than the highest retention price of ₹18 crore or the highest auction price at the big auction," states the document, accessed by *The Hindu*.

"In case the highest auction price at a big auction is ₹20 cr., then ₹18 cr. will be the cap. If the highest auction price at a big auction is ₹16 cr. then the cap will be ₹16 cr."

It effectively means that no overseas player can be sold for a fee larger than some retained superstars of Indian cricket. A trend of smaller auctions witnessing skyrocketing fees has emerged over the last few years.

The discussion took a serious turn when two Australian cricketers – Mitchell Starc (₹24.75 cr) and Pat Cummins (₹20.50 cr) – fetched humongous sums at the last mini-auction, held in December 2023.

Immediately after the auction, a few BCCI officials had stressed on the need to ensure India's cricketers remain the biggest gainers from the IPL. The governing council has thus approved the formula designed by IPL chief executive Hemang Amin and his team.

Meanwhile, the governing council has also hiked the reserve price for all the cricketers featuring in the auction. The minimum base price for capped cricketers has been raised from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh, while that for uncapped cricketers has been increased from ₹20 lakh to ₹30 lakh.

As a result, the five brackets for the capped players for the 2025 auction will be ₹75 lakh, ₹1 crore, ₹1.125 crore, ₹1.50 crore and ₹2 crore. Similarly, the uncapped players' base price categories will be ₹30 lakh, ₹40 lakh and ₹50 lakh.

Centre of Excellence set to scale up BCCI's training system

Amol Karhadkar
BENGALURU

Giant step: The NCA, rechristened CoE, is spread over 16,000sq.ft. and will take care of most of BCCI's training needs. K. MURALI KUMAR

For long, the Indian cricket fraternity has been longing for its own Centre of Excellence.

On Saturday, the re-christening and relocating of the National Cricket Academy, resulted in a huge step in the direction.

A sprawling 40-acre plot that was allotted in 2008, but stuck in disputes and litigations for well over a decade since then, has been converted into the Board of Control for Cricket in India's Centre of Excellence and was formally inaugurated on Saturday by its president Roger Binny and secretary Jay Shah.

The facility has three huge grounds. The main ground has 13 red-soil pitches, floodlights, an 85-yard boundary and broadcasting facilities.

The other two have 11 mixed soil and black soil pitches, respectively.

There is also a 45-pitch outdoor training facility and eight strips in the climate controlled indoor nets facility that will take care of most of the BCCI's training needs for the boys and girls, junior and senior alike, all through the year.

While the CoE is expected to be fully operational by early 2025, including an ultramodern Sports Science and Medicine unit spread over 16,000-plus square feet.

For starters, it will house 24 men and eight female cricketers, with the provision to expand it into three digits.

NCA head coach V.V.S. Laxman stressed on the Centre of Excellence living up to its billing. "The beneficiaries will be not only the future generation of cricketers, but also the current generation of cricketers," Laxman said on Sunday.

"Since the time I joined the NCA in December 2021, all the cricketers, they come here, not only for rehab. Obviously, there is a misconception that the cricketers come only for rehab.

"But they come to the NCA to improve their skills, get ready for the challenges during the various series they are going to participate in.

"I am sure that all the players who come to this facility and all those who will be part of this programme will strive to achieve excellence, will strive to become the best they can.

"And in the process, the Indian cricket team will be probably the best in the world in all the formats."

Duleep Trophy set to revert to zonal format next year

Amol Karhadkar
BENGALURU

The Duleep Trophy is set to revert to its zonal format starting next year. The BCCI, at the 93rd Annual General Meeting, is understood to have held a prolonged discussion over the issue before deciding to move away from this year's experiment.

"Various members addressed the need to maintain the competitive nature than virtually converting Duleep Trophy into exhibition games with mix-and-match teams," a member who attended the AGM on Sunday, told *The Hindu*. "After hearing the house patiently, the secretary (Jay Shah) promised that the conventional zonal format will be reverted to starting next season."

Based on the recommendations of a working group consisting then head coach Rahul Dravid, chief selector Ajit Agarkar, NCA head V.V.S. Laxman and GM, operations Abey Kuruvilla, the BCCI hosted the Duleep Trophy with four teams selected by four teams. The experiment is set to be done away with starting next season.

The AGM, meanwhile, authorised office-bearers to finalise BCCI's representative for ICC's meetings as an ICC Director. With Shah set to take over as the ICC chair on December 1, a new ICC representative will have to be selected.

While the BCCI media statement did not lament these two aspects, the statement, signed by Shah, confirmed that a resolution was passed "to maintain BCCI's legal status as a society. The members further resolved that the tournaments of the BCCI, including IPL, shall not be converted to a company."

Jemimah and bowlers set up India's victory

WT20 WC WARM-UP

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Jemimah Rodrigues struck a crucial 52 (40b, 5x4) as India posted a 20-run victory over West Indies in a warm-up game ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Jemimah anchored the innings as India made 141 for eight. Yastika Bhatia chipped in with a 25-ball 24, with a four and a six.

In reply, West Indies managed 121 for eight with Chinelle Henry top-scoring with an unbeaten 59 off 48 balls. Pooja Vastrakar took three wickets while Deepti Sharma claimed two.

The T20 World Cup is set to begin on October 3 with India taking on New Zealand in its opening match on October 4.

The scores: India 141/8 in 20 overs (Jemimah 52, Matthews 4/17) bt West Indies 121/8 in 20 overs (Henry 59 n.o., Pooja 3/20).

Railways retains the title after win over IOC

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Another one: The triumphant Railways team. M. VEDHAN

The spectators gave a big round of applause to the Indian Railways team when it did a lap of honour after a fighting 5-3 victory over Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in the final of the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup all-India hockey tournament on Sunday.

Railways, the defending champion, had been dominant throughout and in the summit clash, it was more so, as it didn't allow IOC – comprising quite a few Olympians and Internationals – to settle down.

The team got nine penalty corners, including eight in the first quarter, but converted only one.

The moment Railways went 4-2 ahead in the third quarter, IOC was left with a mountain to climb. It attacked well on occasions but failed miserably in the final third. The former champion, too, had eight penalty corners, and converted just one.

"Though IOC had many stars, our players were fitter and better. I would also like to pick youngster Simranjot Singh not just for his ability to score but also for his receiving skills. Of course, it has been a team effort," said Railways head coach Sunil Kumar Singh.

The result (final): Indian Railways 5 (Gursahibjit Singh 7, Simranjot Singh 9, Yuvraj Walmiki 18 & 58, Mukul Sharma 35) bt IOC 3 (Talwinder Singh 23, Gujinder Singh 29, Rajbir Singh 58).

INBRIEF

Tottenham beats 10-man Utd to up pressure on Ten Hag

Tottenham piled more pressure on Erik ten Hag's position as Manchester United manager with a dominant 3-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The results: Ipswich 2 (Delap 8, 72) lost to Aston Villa 2 (Rogers 15, Watkins 32); Manchester United 0 lost to Tottenham 3 (Johnson 3, Kulusevski 47, Solanke 77).

Arjun Maini finishes third in DTM race from maiden pole

Arjun Maini finished third in race one of DTM at the Red Bull Ring at Spielberg (Austria) after becoming the first Indian to secure pole position in the sports car series. After many changes at the top of the timings sheet, the Mercedes-AMG driver held his nerve in Saturday's morning session and clocked the fastest time of 1:30.128 on his final lap. In race one, Maini came third behind winner Mirko Bortolotti and Maro Engel. The DTM grid has 20 drivers representing Mercedes AMG, BMW, Audi, McLaren, Ferrari, Porshe and Lamborghini.

Agniputra edges out South United, books semifinals spot

FC Agniputra edged out South United FC 1-0 to win its second Group-C match and book a spot in the semifinals of the UrbanRise C. Puttaiah Memorial Cup football tournament in Bengaluru on Sunday. In the last-four, Agniputra will meet Kodagu FC.

The results: FC Agniputra 1 (Lalruatfela 49) bt South United 0.

Real Bengaluru 2 (Sahil Suresh Lamani 44, R. Karthikeyan 47) bt Rebels 1 (S. Dinesh 75).

Indian air pistol teams shoot gold in World Junior meet

Individual medals were elusive except for the women's air pistol bronze for Kanak, but India was on top of the medals table with two gold in team events on the opening day of the World junior shooting championship in Lima, Peru. The junior men's air pistol team of Umesh houdhary, Mukesh Nelavalli and Parmod won the gold with 1726 points, beating Romania by 10 points. The women's team of Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita and Anjali Chaudhary scored 1708 points and edged out Azerbaijan by one point for the gold.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 4, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.

Serie A: gxr.world, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

LaLiga: gxr.world, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

From TV presenter to Olympiad gold winner

Tania glad to contribute to team's victory in Budapest; hopes chess will receive the attention it receives in Delhi as in Tamil Nadu and Telangana; says loves doing commentary

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Double joy: Tania Sachdev at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. FIDE

From talking about the world's elite athletes winning gold medals at the Paris Olympics as a television presenter to winning a gold herself at the Chess Olympiad within a space of a fortnight, Tania Sachdev went through the kind of experience not many could have.

"It was indeed incredible that I could be part of two Olympics in such different ways," Tania told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

"The Indian team for the Chess Olympiad was selected just two days before I left for Mumbai to do that gig for the Olympics. I have not been playing a lot of tournaments for the last couple of years.

"So I was thinking at that moment, 'how am I going to pull this off?'"

She pulled it off, alright.

She played on the reserve board for India. She played five games, won two and drew three.

Tania is glad that she could contribute to India's gold. "India may win Olympiad gold again, but it is a great feeling to know that I was part of the team that won it for the first time," she says. "I can't explain the emotions I went through, standing on the podium and receiving the gold medals - that along with our gold-winning medals team."

Would she be tempted to play more after winning the Olympiad gold?

"I wish I knew the definite answer," she says. "I love doing commentary, it is not a job for me; it is something I enjoy.

"But playing is still something I am involved with.

"I don't know what the future holds for me in terms of the balance between playing and commentating, but I am so glad that I have won this gold before I have retired from competitive sport."

Tania is a bit disappointed though that chess, or even the Olympiad gold, is not getting the attention it deserves in States like Delhi, where she lives. "It is really sad," she says.

"Look at a state like Tamil Nadu, which always honours its chess players and the way it conducted the last Olympiad two years ago.

"Some other States like Andhra and Telangana are also doing well. I hope that should be the case all over the country, so that more kids are inspired."

Team bonding, one of main reasons for Olympiad triumph, says Vaishali

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Vaishali. M VEDHAN

The last few days, for Grandmaster R.Vaishali, after a historic gold by the Indian (open & women) teams at the Budapest Chess Olympiad, have been quite hectic, but enjoyable.

She hasn't seen a chess board for a change, busy attending felicitation functions, giving interviews to the media and meeting important people.

"It was a happy feeling to be part of the team's historic gold medal-winning team, certainly memorable. It's been quite hectic ever since we returned. We met the Prime Minister in New Delhi recently. I will go to London to play in the Global Chess League (GCL) that begins on October 3 and then there is the European Club Cup. I will be taking part in the Tata Steel tournament in November," Vaishali told *The Hindu* in a virtual interview.

According to Vaishali's coach R. B. Ramesh, her performance at Budapest has been 'decent.' And the 23-year-old agreed with the assessment and explained that in detail.

"Of the 10 games I played, I had four wins and four draws. A couple of games didn't go well. I won a crucial game against Georgia in the seventh round. And the fifth-round win over Kazakhstan was crucial, too. Against Poland in the eighth round, I played in better positions but couldn't convert. It was very painful. A few things here and there could have gone well. It was a learning experience."

Bonding with teammates, according to Vaishali, was one of the main reasons for the team's victory. "We had an amazing time together. D. Harika, a very experienced player who has played in many Olympiads (10). It was a dream come true moment for her. For me, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal, it was our second over the board Olympiad. Harika shared her experiences with us," she said.

When things were not looking good for the Indian team after the loss to Poland and the draw with USA in the eighth and ninth rounds respectively, it was captain Abhijit Kunte's idea to pull the players from their rooms for a walk that changed the outlook of the team.

"We had this huge setback after seven good rounds. We lost to Poland and drew with the USA to concede the lead. The night was not looking great. We had a team meeting. Our captain Abhijit sir said, 'we have to change something'. So, we went for a walk. We had a good time discussing things, chess and non-chess. That really helped.

"We had to win the last two matches (vs. China & vs. Azerbaijan) to secure gold. We were motivated. In the previous Olympiad, we came close to winning the gold and let it slip. We didn't handle the pressure situations well then. We were determined to win gold this time," said Vaishali.

Her goal is to get back to the world's top 10 in women's FIDE ratings and cross the 2500 Elo mark. "But more than that", she added, "I want to improve my game."

Vaishali is excited to compete in GCL, where she will play for Ganges Grandmasters. "I will be playing with Viswanathan Anand and Arjun Erigaisi for the Ganges team. I was following my brother Praggnanandhaa's games in the previous edition. It was so much fun. And am looking forward to it," she said.

Rivaan, Ruhaan are National champions

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Local lad, 11-year-old Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) on Sunday retained his title in the Micro Max category in the fifth and final round of the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship Rotax Max Classes 2024.

In the Senior Max class, Ruhaan Alva (MSPORT) emerged National champion.

The results (provisional):
Senior Max (Finals, 15 laps): 1. Rohaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) (13:03.772); 2. Ruhaan Alva (MSPORT) (13:03.909); 3. Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) (13:04.295). **National champion:** Ruhaan. (MSPORT).

Junior Max (Finals, 14 laps): 1. Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT) (11:17.334); 2. Aahil Mecklai (Rayo Racing) (11:24.232); 3. Nikhilesh Raju (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (11:25.318).

National champion: Arafath Sheikh (Crest Motorsports).

Micro Max (Finals, 12 laps): 1. Rehan Khan (MSPORT) (11:08.858); 2. Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) (11:09.788); 3. Danish Dalmiya (Rayo Racing) (11:10.120).

National champion: Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT).

On top: Ruhaan (Senior Max), Rivaan (Micro Max) and Arafath (Junior Max). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coach Kanitkar oozes confidence

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

India u-19 coach Kanitkar

India U-19 coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar said his team is confident ahead of the first Test in the Youth Test series against Australia U-19, which will begin at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium on Monday.

"We are confident because we've had a good one-day series. Having said that, this is a different format altogether. Everything changes, the place is different, so it's better to take the good things from the one-day series and prepare well again, but we are confident."

Speaking about the hot and humid conditions and also the pitch, Kanitkar said: "Puducherry was hot as well, so we are fine with the weather, but the pitch is different. We'll have a look at the pitch again tomorrow morning, let's see, probably it might rain because it's hot and humid, so we'll have a look and then decide."

With India possessing talented youngsters, the coach felt positive about his team's ability, "There a lot of good players, I would not like to single out one person, you'll see, there is a lot of talent and ability. Anyone of them could do well and it's a very good side in terms of batters, bowlers, and their abilities, when you watch them you'll realise."

When asked if there was an opportunity for Samit Dravid, son of T20 World Cup winning coach Rahul Dravid, to play in the Tests he said, "As of now he is at the NCA, he is recovering from his knee injury. So, I don't know yet, but it looks unlikely."

The coach also felt playing the red-ball format will be a fantastic opportunity for the youngsters to know where they stand "I think this is a great initiative to play the Test matches.

"The red-ball format tests you. It's about planning and strategy, so for the batters, bowlers, and also the fielders this is the ideal challenge to see where you stand. To be able to play against a foreign side is a great thing, I know a lot of people including myself have played at the u-19 level against foreign teams and it really helped us a lot.

"I think this is going to be magnificent for the players."

Blasters and NEUFC share spoils

Sports Bureau

Kerala Blasters shared points with NorthEast United FC following a gripping 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League football at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday night.

Alaeddine Ajaraei's 58th minute goal from a freekick was equalised by Noah Sadaoui's stunning strike in the 67th as the Kerala Blasters FC salvaged a crucial point on the road.

It was a very high-intensity match with end-to-end football from both sides. However, the visitors made the more impressive moves with the likes of Noah, Jesus Jimenez and Danish Farooq combining in attack.

Vishnu and Vaidehi get top billing

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Former champions Vishnu Vardhan and Vaidehi Chaudhari have been seeded No.1 in the men's and women's events in the Fenesta National tennis championship, to be played at the DLTA Complex from Monday.

Manish Sureshkumar and V.M. Ranjeet are the other former champions in the men's draw. Another former champ, Dalwinder Singh, was trying to make it through the qualifying draw.

In the women's section, Riya Bhatia has been seeded second and will try to assert her strong game, which had seen her win both the hard court and grass court national titles in the past.

It is for the aspiring players to capitalise on the opportunity and use the championship to launch their career in the international arena.

For players who are used to competing for very little prize money in the domestic circuit, it will be interesting to fight for the equal winner's purse of ₹3,00,000 for the men's and women's champions.

The seedings: Men: 1. Vishnu Vardhan, 2. Manish Sureshkumar, 3. Ishaque Eqbal, 4. Kabir Hans, 5. Parth Aggarwal, 6. V. M. Ranjeet, 7. Maan Kesharwani, 8. Raghav Jaisinghani.

Women: 1. Vaidehi Chaudhari, 2. Riya Bhatia, 3. Akanksha Nitture, 4. Lakshmi Prabha, 5. Aditi Rawat, 6. Soha Sadiq, 7. Sejal Bhutada, 8. Abhaya Vemuri.

Jyoti, Manna and Nayak set new meet records

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
PATNA

Jyoti (javelin), Tushar Kanti Manna (400m) and Jashbir Nayak (decathlon) set new meet records in the Indian Open under-23 athletics meet on Sunday.

Jyoti comfortably threw farther than her previous mark of 52.77m in all her six attempts. Her fifth – 58.49m – was the best.

Jyoti and her training mate Deepika repeated their 1-2 finish from last year. Manna, competing in the 400m since January, recorded a convincing win with an impressive personal best of 45.92s while Nayak amassed 7065 points to smash the previous record.

Abhimanyu (men's discus, 53.66m) and Gobika K. and Payal Jamod (women's high jump, 1.76m) equalled meet records.

Olympian Ankita Dhyani, who featured in 5000m in Paris, clocked 10:17.25 to win her debut 3000m steeplechase competition.

Animesh Kujur's late charge helped him claim the 100m crown with 10.40 even as National record holder Manikanta Hoblidhar finished fourth with 10.68.

On a roll: Jyoti comfortably threw farther than her previous mark of 52.77m in all her six attempts. R.V. MOORTHY

The results (finals): Men:
100m: 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 10.40, 2. Govind Kumar (Chd) 10.61, 3. Tamil Arasu (TN) 10.66; **400m:** 1. Tushar Kanti Manna (Del) 45.92 (NMR, Old, Ayush Dabas, 46.58, 2021), 2. Rince Joseph (Ker) 46.71, 3. Vishal T.K. (TN) 46.7.
1500m: 1. Sakir (Har) 3:48.21, 2. Gaurav Panchal (Har) 3:49.10, 3. Arjun Waskale (MP) 3:50.36; **110m hurdles:** 1. A. Graceson Jeeva (Odi) 14.49, 2. Rathish (TN) 14.56, 3. Shubham Singh Rawat (Del) 14.58; **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Suraj Pal (UP) 9:00.52, 2. Parveen Kumar (Har) 9:11.11, 3. Vishnu Kumar (Raj) 9:13.97. **20km race walk:** 1. Sachin Bohra (Utk) 1:28:51.58, 2. Khangembam Pilot (Man) 1:28:51.94, 3. Gaurav Kumar (UP) 1:32:48.34.
Discus: 1. Abhimanyu (Har) 53.66m, 2. Shubhkarman Singh (Pun) 52.34m, 3. Nagendra Annappa (Kar) 51.98m; **Decathlon:** 1. Jashbir Nayak (Odi) 7065 (NMR, Old, Y. Sharma, 6975, 2021), 2. Logeshkumaar A.S. (TN) 6525, 3. Rathod Lokesh Damu (Kar) 6440.
Pole vault: 1. Dev Meena (MP) 5:20m (NMR, Old, Prashant Kanihya, 5:10m, 2021), 2. Kuldeep Kumar (UP) 5:15m, 3. Ramratan (Raj) 4:90m.
Women: 100m: 1. Sudeshna Shivankar (Mah) 11.76, 2. Tamanna (Har) 11.98, 3. Angel Silvia (TN) 11.98.
3000m steeplechase: 1. Ankita Dhyani (Utk) 10:17.25, 2. Vandana Mori (Guj) 10:28.13, 3. Sonam (Del) 10:30.29. **20km race walk:** 1. Reshma Patel (UP) 1:44:37.39, 2. Nikita Lamba (Raj) 1:45:00.72, 3. Pramila Sajjanwar (MP) 1:45:06.73.
High jump: 1. Gobika K. (TN) 1.76m, 2. Payal Jamod (Guj) 1.76m, 3. Pallavi Patil (Kar) 1.72m; **Javelin:** 1. Jyoti (Har) 58.49m (NMR, Old, Jyoti, 52.77m, 2023), 2. Deepika (Har) 54.71m, 3. Shakshi Sharma (UP) 45.27m.
Pole vault: 1. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 3:80m, 2. Nikita Akare (MP) 3:50m, 3. Rajni (Har) 3:40m.